

# ***MacDermot Roe, Biatach***



*Charity and Justice*

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## *Introduction*

When I was 15, I interviewed my maternal grandmother, Pansy Simpson Meaney, about her ancestry. I still have the crude genealogical chart I made in blue pencil on lined school paper.

My grandmother gave me as many names as she could recall and approximate dates. And when she was done, she said, "the Roe MacDermot's, they were very important." And then she said it again.

Pansy was referring to the family of her maternal grandmother, Catherine MacDermot Roe who married Thomas Fagan of Troy. Even after her marriage, Catherine continued to use Roe as part of her name as she put such importance on her heritage. I made a mental note of this although I incorrectly spelled the name "Rowe" in my chart!

About seven years later, while a student at Columbia Law School sitting in my room in John Jay Hall listening to a classical music radio station, I heard the most enchanting melody in a baroque chamber piece. The announcer informed me that it was composed by a man named Carolan, or something like that.

The memory of this melody would not leave me. Over the next few years, I would inquire in the classical music section of record stores about this composer. No one had heard of him. Since this was long before the internet when all kinds of research, as well as, music streaming were at one's fingertips, I seemed to be at a dead end.

A few years after graduation from law school, still living in my favorite city, I was listening to Irish music on Fordham University's radio station, WFUV. After a particularly delightful instrumental piece, I heard the announcer say "That was by Turlough Carolan".

Happy Day! Now I knew Carolan was an Irish composer. The reason why I couldn't find his music in the classical section of music stores was that he was principally known as a composer of traditional Irish music. So I would have had to search for him in the Celtic section - if one had existed in those days.

So I went to a music store and started buying tapes of Carolan's music. Remember tapes, a temporary medium between, vinyl records and

compact discs, the last having been large eclipsed by streams and downloads from the internet?

Reading liner notes, I learned that Turlough Carolan, 1670-1738, was a blind harper and Ireland's most famous composer of traditional music. Additionally, I was stunned to discover that Carolan's patrons were the MacDermots Roe. This was a very strange coincidence. The Higher Power was trying to tell me something!

A few more years go by and I find myself elected President of the Parish Council of the Blessed Sacrament Church on the West Side of Manhattan near Lincoln Center. I previously had served as Chairman of the Parish Council's Social Justice Committee. During my tenure as President, the Parish Council established a food kitchen to feed the growing homeless population of our neighborhood.

It was some time later that I learned that the MacDermots Roe were, from about 1300, the Biatachs General for the Irish kingdom of Connacht. In that position, which was passed down in the sept, the MacDermot Roe was responsible for feeding the poor.

About this time I developed a passion for fox hunting - a passion I pursued for several decades. Why was I attracted to the sport? I didn't know. But, I later discovered that Thomas MacDermotRoe of Castlemehen of the Emlagh MacDermots Roe from which I trace descent was, not only, a devoted 18<sup>th</sup> century fox hunter, but also, maintained his own pack for 50 years hunting a territory in Emlagh.

Well, all this was more than a coincidence. I realized the Higher Power was telling me in no uncertain terms that I had some important spiritual connection to my MacDermot Roe ancestors.

I undertook to learn as much as I could about the history of the MacDermots Roe. I visited many libraries including the National Library of Ireland where I examined unpublished manuscripts and old pedigrees and the New York Public Library where I found rare books on Irish history which mentioned the family. In addition, I contacted all the cousins I could get hold of on either side of the Atlantic. Eventually, I had enough research material to write articles which I published on the internet and mailed to cousins. These articles as expanded and supplemented with additional essays are the basis for this book.

In addition to researching and writing articles on the MacDermots Roe, I, also, sought to reconnect with the family and contribute to its revival by

reviving the surname in my family. The surname had gone extinct in my line with the death of Catherine MacDermot Roe's brother John, in 1906. I provide information on Catherine and her descendants in chapters 14 and 15.

It would be convenient if the history of the MacDermots Roe could be recounted in a purely chronological fashion like the history of a nation. However, the sources for such a narrative of the family simply don't exist.

Consequently, the approach here has been to uncover whatever material might exist and present it as completely as possible. So, the reader's indulgence is appreciated. Gaps in the history are everywhere. But where information has been found it is presented and where blanks can be filled in by reasonable conjecture, they are.

For example, we can say quite a lot about the MacDermots Roe of Alderford in Kiltonan Parish, County Roscommon because Henry and Mary MacDermotRoe of this branch were the principal patrons of Carolan, Ireland's most famous composer. Carolan's biographers have preserved a great amount of important information concerning the MacDermots Roe of Alderford especially since Carolan's relationship with the family extended from his childhood through his death and burial.

Unfortunately, little detail survives about other branches. However, we do have glimpses. For example, the MacDermots Roe of Emlagh left many land records and occasional documents which shed light on this branch. The Dermotts of Usher's Quay Dublin, who appear to be MacDermots Roe, provide us with very interesting information about their activities in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, as well as, a connection with the MacDermots Roe of Emlagh. And the MacDermots Roe of Cloonshanville/Frenchpark can be related to the history of the Dominican Priory that MacDermot Roe founded in 1385.

At the beginning of my research on the MacDermots Roe, I hoped to trace all living MacDermot Roe descendants back to the family's ancestor, Dermot Roe, later Dermot Dall, in 1266 and, thereby to create a complete, unified family tree. However, this goal has proved elusive.

In the course of my research, I reached out to all known MacDermot Roe branches for their family histories. What I discovered was an amazingly large number of distinct branches – about a dozen. They all were descendants of Dermot Roe, flourished 1266, but in most cases their genealogical information goes back only about two centuries. This is not surprising.

While the Irish were practically obsessive about maintaining their genealogies in ancient times, the English occupation and ensuing termination of Gaelic law and suppression of the Catholic Church were huge blows to genealogical record keeping.

Under the Gaelic law of tanistry, any family member could be elected chief so long as his father, grandfather or great-grandfather had been a chief. Thus, it was essential to keep a record of your ancestry for several generations to establish your eligibility for the chieftaincy. With the abolition of the law of tanistry, the Gaelic chieftaincy ceased to exist and there was no imperative to keep this important genealogical information.

The suppression of the Church, also, created an extremely difficult problem for Irish genealogy. Since civil birth records were not maintained in Ireland until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the genealogist must look to church baptismal records for births. However, Catholic churches were suppressed until near the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and baptismal records, on average, are available only from the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

The fact that a unified MacDermot Roe pedigree cannot be constructed should be seen in perspective.

First, we can say for certain that anyone with the surname MacDermotRoe descends from Dermot Roe, flourished 1266. This cannot be said of other surnames. Take the O'Connor's, for example. The O'Conors of Connaught, often High Kings of Ireland, as well as Kings of Connaught, were one of the most prominent families in Ireland. Nevertheless, other unrelated clans elsewhere in Ireland, also, bore the name. In contrast, all MacDermots Roe, because of the uniqueness of the name, are a part of the distinguished family history related here.

Secondly, the research revealing many different branches of the family is not without value. Many MacDermot Roe researchers may find this information useful in finding, both, ancestors and cousins. Furthermore, there is nothing wrong with taking pride in one's particular MacDermot Roe branch while at the same time taking pride in the history of the entire family.

Thirdly, Ireland as a clan based society valued the horizontal family as much, maybe more, than the vertical relationship. While the English system of primogeniture, succession by eldest son, places the entire focus on a vertical line, the clan system provides a much broader identity. Your



social importance is that you are a member of a leading clan – whether the most wealthy member of that clan or not is secondary.

So, to belong to a family such as the MacDermots Roe was a huge source of pride. Certainly, everyone in Connaught would know and respect your name. Your ancestors and cousins were Kings of Moylurg, Marshals and Biatachs General of Connaught, the builders of abbeys and the patrons of the arts. It was the clan, not just your immediate family that was the base on which you stood and your cousins were like brothers.

Industrialism, with all the changes it brought to society, broke the ancient historic and economic ties that bound the clan members together. Indeed, most modern descendants of Gaelic families have trouble grasping the once important notion of clan identity. Nonetheless, I think the history of the MacDermots Roe is worth preserving - not just because it's an integral part of Irish history, but also, because the MacDermot Roe family history, especially the service as Biatach, can be a great source of pride and inspiration to descendants.

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## *Acknowledgements*

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I, also, wish to express my thanks to the late Conor MacDermot, Dermot's son, for his encouragement and inspiration. Conor's enthusiasm for preserving the MacDermot tradition was infectious and he was as kind and modest as he was brilliant.

Much of the material regarding the MacDermots Roe and other families discussed in the book was obtained from my conversations with family including my grandmother Ursula (Pansy) Simpson Meaney, my wife Bonnie's mother, Ernesta Jaros Marchand, our cousin Simon Ottenberg, and my paternal uncle Arthur Thomas. I thank them for their thoughtfulness in preserving their family history and in sharing it with me.

Additionally, I thank very much the many MacDermot Roe cousins who shared with me the histories of their branches. They include: Peter Witt McDearmon on the McDearmonsRoe of Virginia, Phil McDermott-Roe on the family of Colonel James McDermott-Roe of Ohio, Gail Chimenti on the MacDermottsRoe of Moygara, Ann Nolan on the MacDermottsRoe of Crosshill, Steve Nelson on the Roes who descend from James McDermottRoe of Cloghmine, Oliver McDermottroe on the MacDermottsRoe of Frenchpark and Sheila Whittington on the MacDermotsRoe of Tawnymucklagh.

I wish to thank the staff members at the National Library of Ireland in Dublin, at the New York Public Library's History and Genealogy Department on Fifth Avenue and the British House of Lords Records Office, London, as well as, the volunteers at the local family history centers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for their generous assistance in gaining access to important books, manuscripts and other records. Additionally, I thank researchers John MacDermot, Dublin genealogist and Patrick O'Flynn of Roscommon who generously shared with me information from Irish records.

Finally, I gratefully acknowledge the kindness and support of my older son Marchand who, as a little boy, often kept me company on long research sessions at libraries. He patiently sat next to me hour after hour while I

perused old books, manuscripts and records. I appreciate his help more than he can know and dedicate this book to him and to his younger brother and sister, Conor and Dolley.

## *Note on the author's name*

My birth name, Kenneth Arthur Thomas, was changed to Kenneth Thomas MacDermotRoe in 1997. My first name was changed from Kenneth to Kim in 2017.

## Chapter 1

# *A Short History of the MacDermots Roe*

### **Origins and Early History**

The ancestor of the MacDermots Roe, the most important cadet branch of the MacDermots, was Dermot Roe, later known as Dermot Dall. Dermot Roe was the son of Conor and the grandson of Cormac, King of Moylurg (1218-1244). He was in the fifth generation of descent from Dermot, King of Moylurg (1124-1159) from whom the MacDermot clan took its name.

The MacDermots Roe are a Milesian family. This means that the family descends from Milesius of Spain, the leader of the Gaelic Celts in what is now the Spanish province of Galicia. According to Irish histories, Milesius' sons invaded Ireland in the second millennium before Christ. Two of them, Heremon and Heber became the first Gaelic kings of Ireland. The descent from Milesius' son Heremon to the origins of the MacDermots Roe is set forth for each generation in John O'Hart's, *Irish Pedigrees*.

According to the *Annals of the Four Masters*, in the year 1266 Dermot Roe was blinded by Aedh O'Connor, King of Connaught.<sup>i</sup> Aedh was evidently a very nasty fellow as the *Annals* recount that he, also, blinded a Donnacty, son of Dunn Og the same year. After the blinding, Dermot Roe was known as Dermot Dall (Dall=blind, in Gaelic).

It is not known what motivated King Aedh to put out Dermot's eyes. However, under tanistry, the Gaelic law governing the succession of kings and chiefs, a person could not succeed to the kingship if he suffered from a significant physical defect. Very possibly, Aedh blinded Dermot to ensure that he would never become King of Moylurg.

Dermot Dall was obviously a man of significant stature in the clan because he went on to found a very important sept notwithstanding his being blind. The sept is said to have taken its name from Dermot Dall's grandson, named Dermot Roe, hence MacDermot Roe. The grandson Dermot Roe was buried at Boyle Abbey in 1341.

The rise of the MacDermots Roe as the principal branch of the MacDermots was, not only, due to the prestige of its ancestors, Dermot Dall and Dermot Roe, but also, to the fact that the MacDermot Roe held the hereditary position of Biatach General for the Kingdom of Connaught. The head of the MacDermot Clan was hereditary marshal for the kingdom.

The Biatach General was the official responsible for the welfare of the poor and homeless and for the provision of food and shelter for travelers. In 1365, Biatach General MacDermot Roe was killed while fighting with Hugh MacDermot of Moylurg against the MacRanalls of South Leitrim.<sup>ii</sup> The office of Biatach is discussed in detail in Chapter 10, *infra*.

It is generally assumed that the MacDermots Roe originated in Coillte Conchobhair, a small territory between the Rivers Feorish and Arigna in the northern part of the ancient territory of Tir Tuathail in northeastern County Roscommon within Kilronan Parish. However, it is not unlikely that Dermot Dall and his closer descendants lived nearer the MacDermot headquarters at Loch Ce.

In any event, the MacDermots Roe were said to be the Lords of Coillte Conchobhair in the 15<sup>th</sup> century while the MacManuses who had preceded them in the area were the Lords of Tir Tuathail, a larger area encompassing Coillte Conchobhair. Sometime in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the MacDermots Roe eclipsed the MacManuses since the MacDermots Roe are listed as the chief family of the area in the 1585 Composition of Connaught.<sup>iii</sup>

Kilronan was long regarded as the headquarters of the MacDermots Roe. Many MacDermot Roe families were found there and in neighboring parishes, such as Ardcarn, from early on. However, recent research shows that from an early time the MacDermots Roe were established throughout County Roscommon, including areas far south of the borders of Moylurg, the MacDermot territory. For example, by 1611, at the latest, they were in Athleague. This southern MacDermot Roe expansion may have occurred contemporaneously or even earlier than the occupation of Coillte Conchobhair.

A significant group of MacDermots Roe is shown in Tibohine Civil Parish, several miles south of Kilronan, in the 1749 Elphin Census. They were in the vicinity of the Priory of the Holy Cross at Cloonshanville. According to the most ancient authorities the Priory, was built by the MacDermots Roe in 1385 and given to the Dominicans.<sup>iv</sup> The MacDermots Roe may have been in this area for centuries with a continuing involvement with the Priory. The last Prior at Cloonshanville in the late 1600's was a MacDermot Roe.

Another large group of MacDermots Roe were established in an area in West Central Roscommon, referred to here as Emlagh, by the 1600's at the latest. Their headquarters, Dundermot was on the River Suck near Ballymoe and they held other lands near Oran Abbey and elsewhere in the area. They may have been established there long before the 1600's in connection with their duties as Biatach General for Connaught as Dundermot was near the O'Connor headquarters at Ballintober Castle.

Members of the Emlagh branch appear to have been, also, established in Dublin and Louth by the 1600's. In fact, they may have been in business in Dublin in the 1500's. This branch appears to include a Terence Dermott, Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1689. The MacDermots Roe of Emlagh are discussed in detail in Chapter 7, *infra*.

While there are not many details known about the early years of the MacDermots Roe, we do know that the MacDermots Roe split with their "followers" during the great Irish rebellion against Queen Elizabeth led by Red Hugh O'Donnell and Hugh O'Neill. In a report dated September 1597, Sir Conyers Clifford, English President of Connaught wrote "The MacDermots Roe have come in to me and live about the Abbey of Boyle; but their followers are in action with O Ruarke (Brian Og O'Rourke)."v Boyle Abbey, whose principal patrons were the MacDermots, was an English stronghold during the rebellion.

O'Rourke, known as Brian Og of the Battle Axes, was the Lord of Leitrim and brought a small army to support Red Hugh in the rebellion. If the MacDermot Roe followers were with O'Rourke, then they fought in support of the forces of Conor Og MacDermot at the Battle of the Curlews on August 15, 1599. The MacDermots played a leading role in this great victory over the English. Clifford was killed and buried by the MacDermots on Trinity Island in Loch Ce.

Among the MacDermots Roe gathered outside Clifford's fort at Boyle Abbey may have been young Conor, great-grandson of a MacDermot Roe chieftain named Cathal. Like the others, Conor would have been wondering if he had made the right decision. By joining Clifford and spurning Red Hugh had he ensured his family's survival or brought upon them disgrace?

## **The Rise of Conor MacDermot Roe**

The next few years would show that the decision of the MacDermots Roe to go with Clifford and the English was a very prudent if not patriotic one. The Battle of the Curlews proved to be the last great victory for the Irish. The rebellion was crushed on December 24, 1601 with the great defeat of the Irish and their Spanish allies on the Cork coast at the Battle of Kinsale. On March 30, 1603, Hugh O'Neill submitted to the English. Eventually, O'Neill and many other Irish leaders fled the country in what became known as "the Flight of the Earls".

It was in the context of this momentous Irish defeat that young Conor submitted a petition to the new English King, James I, for a surrender and re-grant of certain MacDermot Roe lands in Kilronan Parish. The petition was granted on November 20, 1605 and confirmed by the King on June 18, 1607.<sup>vi</sup> From that time on, Conor and his descendants held the land under English title.

The English program of surrender and re-grant was one of several "legal" methods by which the Tudors and later the Stuart Kings sought to convert Irish land ownership to an English model and to undermine the Irish clan based social, economic and political system. The surrender and re-grant was particularly useful as it, also, tended to ensure the loyalty of the chieftain who received the grant of land.

Under the ancient Gaelic legal system, known as the Brehon law, the allocation of land was a reflection of the economic and military interdependence of the clan members and their strong ties of emotion and blood. There was a communal aspect to the system. The chieftain did not own outright the clan country. Rather, appurtenant to his office was the chieftain's portion of the clan land. The chieftain was, also, supported by rights of tribute, food rent and military service over the clan's territory. His power and wealth were based on family loyalty, tradition and his personal leadership skills.

An essential aspect of the Irish system of land ownership and governance was the Gaelic system of succession known as tanistry. Under this law, a chieftain was not automatically succeeded by his eldest son as under primogeniture. Rather, his successor would be elected by the clan from a three generation zone of male family members.

Thus, the possible successors to a dead chieftain would include anyone whose great-grandfather had been a chieftain, viz. not just the sons of the late chieftain, but also, many, even distant, cousins. An obvious consequence of this system was great uncertainty as to succession as a large number of descendants vied for the chieftaincy. Another consequence



was that it was clear that the chieftain derived his power from the clan in general since their support was essential to succession.

The Irish system was clearly objectionable to the English on two grounds. First, it resulted in too much confusion over land ownership for clear title to be established. Additionally, because of the strong familial nature of the system, it would mitigate against a free market for the conveying of land to persons outside the clan. Clear title and ease of conveyance were, from the English perspective, essential to a modern economy.

A second serious English objection had to do with the ultimate authority behind control of land. It was an integral part of the Gaelic system that power and land control be based upon the clan's consent. In order to solidify English colonial rule, it became necessary that land ownership be based upon a grant from the English government. Thus, the surrender and re-grant technique was part and parcel of the policy that abolished the law of tanistry, as well as, the office of chieftain as it had been anciently understood.<sup>vii</sup>

Although the surrender and re-grant was undoubtedly illegal under Irish law, it provided a legal cover for the English to transform Ireland in a way that went beyond the issue of land ownership. By obtaining the MacDermot Roe lands under English title from an English King, Conor had a much different relationship with his family members than he would have had under the Gaelic system. He now owned the land outright and could be assured that it would pass to his eldest son under the newly imposed rule of primogeniture. He, also, knew his power came from the English government not from the consent of his extended family. His relationship with that extended family and others within the MacDermot Roe territory would henceforth be that of a landlord/tenant nature rather than a familial one.

The substantial grant of land to Conor included a large portion of the MacDermot Roe territory in Tir Tuathail. Included in that property was Camagh, later called Ballyfarnan, where Conor and his descendants maintained Alderford as the family seat.

Interestingly, the land granted to Conor by James I does not appear to have included parcels in the iron rich Kilronan Mountains nor the sites of iron works - properties crucial to the wealth of Conor's branch of the MacDermots Roe. Since the construction and maintenance of ironworks would have required specialized training, it may be that these properties had been passed down within Conor's branch for some time irrespective of who was MacDermot Roe chief.

In addition to Conor, other MacDermots Roe seem to have prospered in the early 1600's. The relative size and importance of the MacDermots Roe in that period is seen in the names of the lessors set forth in the 1617 Grant of Brian Og MacDermot. Within the barony of Boyle, there were 22 MacDermots Roe listed on leases out of a total of 44 MacDermots representing half the total.<sup>viii</sup> The properties covered included a castle and very large parcel leased to Cormac MacDermot Roe in Ballinahow.

As indicated on an unregistered MacDermot Roe pedigree that the author examined at the Genealogical Office in Dublin, the line of Cormac, the other large MacDermot Roe landholder, terminated with Cormac's son, Henry.<sup>ix</sup> With the discontinuation of the Ballinahow line, Conor and his descendants at Alderford were widely regarded as the leading branch of the family.

We do not know the exact date of Conor's death, the names of all his children or even the name of his wife. However, it appears that Conor outlived his son Cathal Dubh who married a Burke of County Galway. Thus, Conor was succeeded as head of the MacDermots Roe by his grandson Henry Baccach (circa 1645-1710).

## **Henry Baccach and Mary MacDermot Roe and their sons**

Henry Baccach (Baccach meaning "lame") MacDermot Roe and his grandfather Conor successfully navigated their family through the tumultuous 17<sup>th</sup> century in Ireland. In 1667, young Henry Baccach received confirmation of his estates from King Charles II of England under a "Declaration of Innocence" which preserved part of the original 1607 land grant to Conor. The Declaration was issued on proof that Henry had not participated in the Irish rebellions against England during the English Civil War.

Henry Baccach married Mary Fitzgerald (circa 1660-1755) and they resided at the family seat, Alderford. They had five sons: (1) Henry who married Anne O'Donnell and had one daughter who died without issue, (2) John who married Julia French and was succeeded by his son Thomas, (3) Thomas, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Ardagh, (4) Matthew, a doctor, who married a Miss MacDermot of Ballinvilla, and who had a son Charles, also a doctor, who died in Jamaica and (5) Charles of Alderford who married

Eleanor O'Connor, sister of the historian Charles O'Connor of Belanagare, and who had three sons, Charles, Henry, and Denis and a daughter, Mary.

Henry Baccach and his wife Mary are famous as the principal patrons of Ireland's most renowned composer, Turlough Carolan (1670-1738). Carolan, a blind harpist, adapted his beautiful Irish folk melodies to the baroque style of his day. He was crucial to the preservation of the Gaelic musical tradition during the harshest days of English colonialism exemplified by the Penal Laws.

We know quite a bit about Henry Baccach's family through biographical notes on the life of Carolan known as the Munday-O'Reilly manuscript.<sup>x</sup> The material was commissioned by Myles John O'Reilly. His most important researcher was Daniel Early who covered Carolan's career from its beginning with the help of the MacDermots Roe to his final days at Alderford. The manuscript was a principal source for Donal O'Sullivan's definitive biography of Carolan which includes a chapter on the MacDermots Roe.<sup>xi</sup>

While visiting the O'Malley's of County Mayo with his mother and brother John to make arrangements for his upcoming marriage to an O'Malley daughter, eldest son Henry excused himself to make a brief visit to the O'Donnell's of Newport. Although expected to return to the O'Malley's, Henry stayed for a dinner which included Carolan and the parish priest. The next morning found Henry married to Anne O'Donnell.

To the chagrin of the family, young Henry took off for Dublin where he immediately mortgaged some of the MacDermot Roe property to raise cash. When he returned to the country it was not to live in Alderford. Rather, he and his wife built a new place called Greyfield on the MacDermot Roe property "where the first wine came in hogsheads".

Young Henry continually partied and spent beyond his means. Carolan was a frequent visitor to both Greyfield and Alderford and composed several pieces in honor of members of the family. Henry succeeded in encumbering most of the MacDermot Roe property with new mortgages. When his wife died, Henry moved in with his daughter and her in-laws at Tempo. He died there on June 21, 1752.

Bridget MacManus, a servant of the MacDermots Roe, attended Carolan during his final illness and her account of these events as recalled by her son is set forth in the Munday-O'Reilly manuscript. In 1738, "when Carolan found that his strength began to fail, he knew his end was fast approaching and drew as quickly as he possibly could to his old home as he always called Alderford, where he was sure of being well received." When

Carolán met Mary MacDermot Roe at the hall door, he said to her in Bridget's presence, "I have come here after all I have gone through, to die at home at last, where I got my first schooling and my first horse."

Mary MacDermot Roe personally attended Carolán during his final week long illness. As the end approached, Carolán "stretched forth his trembling hand to his kind and best beloved Mrs. MacDermott and repeated the following lines as a farewell forever:

'Mary Fitzgerald, dear heart,  
Love of my breast and my friend,  
Alas that I am parting from you,  
O lady who succored me at every stage!'<sup>xii</sup>  
(translated from the original Gaelic)

Among those present at Carolán's death bed was Eleanor, the wife of Charles MacDermot Roe. Carolán was interred in the MacDermot Roe family vault at Kilronan Abbey. His pall bearers included Thomas (later Bishop of Ardagh) and Charles MacDermot Roe.

Youngest son Charles resided at Alderford with his wife Eleanor O'Connor and their children. Eleanor had been married at the age of about 12 to her cousin Charles O'Connor of Sligo. When he died, Charles O'Connor left Eleanor with three young children. Eleanor then married Charles MacDermot Roe with whom she had Charles, Henry, Denis and Mary.

The Munday-O'Reilly Manuscript gives no details regarding Charles' sons, but there are many details regarding his daughter, Mary, whose interview (circa 1830) is recorded there. At the age of 18, Mary went to London where she married William Taylor, a merchant. In July 1791, she went to France for 5 years and had the misfortune of being imprisoned during the Reign of Terror.

Mary was liberated from prison on the death of Robespierre. Her husband having died in France, Mary returned to Ireland. She lived with her mother at Knockranny and later Mount Allen, both places part of the MacDermot Roe patrimony. Mary recounted her visits with her mother to the remains of Carolán at Kilronan Abbey where Eleanor would frequently renew a ribbon which she placed in Carolán's skull. Mary was remarried to William Coulter, an engineer, and is referred to as Mrs. Coulter in the manuscript notes.

Charles of Alderford died in 1759 leaving Eleanor a widow. The second son, John, who was a lawyer and a Protestant convert mounted a successful

legal challenge to Charles' will. The index to wills for the Diocese of Ardagh shows that Charles' will was admitted to probate in 1759.<sup>xiii</sup> The index states that Charles died in residence at Alderford.

With the success of the will challenge, John evicted Eleanor and the children from Alderford. According to Daniel Early's notes, Eleanor was "left with a helpless family bereft of every support" and went to live with relations. Known as "Nelly", Eleanor lived to the age of over 100 "as an example of Christian fortitude and forbearance and always retained her beautiful and majestic appearance."

John MacDermot Roe was clearly not a man to be trifled with. Upon Henry's death, William Knox, Esq. obtained ownership of Greyfield through foreclosure. John, then residing at Greyfield, armed some followers and resisted Knox and the High Sheriff, Edward, Lord Kingston who came to take possession of the house and lands. Several people were killed during a skirmish near Keadue in a field which became known as Pairc a Mhurdair, "Field of Murder". According to Early, had Charles lived, Knox was prepared to give him a reasonable lease on the grounds, Charles "having gained the good will and opinion of Mr. Knox and the Earl of Kingston."<sup>xiv</sup>

## **MacDermots Roe in the Modern Era**

During the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries the MacDermots Roe of Alderford grew steadily in wealth and power. John was succeeded by his second son, Thomas who re-built Alderford in 1777. Thomas' great-grandson, Thomas Charles, became Justice of the Peace for Counties Sligo and Roscommon and High Sheriff for County Roscommon. According to De Burgh's *Irish Landowners*, Thomas Charles owned 2,502 acres in 1875.

As John's Protestant descendants prospered, they, also, became strongly anglicized and integrated with the Anglo-Irish establishment. The extent to which the MacDermots Roe of Alderford identified with the English is illustrated by Ffrench Fitzgerald's entry in *Who Was Who*.<sup>xv</sup> Ffrench describes himself as "Lord of Moylurg... (and) head of the Protestant branch of the MacDermot sept".

According to Ffrench, the ancestor of his sept is neither Dermot Dall nor Mulrooney. He claims his ancestor to be "the Princes of Leinster" through the marriage of Princess Eva, daughter of Dermot, Prince of Leinster to Richard de Clare, Earl of Pembroke. Richard de Clare, known as Strongbow,

led the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland in 1170 and received Princess Eva and Leinster as his reward.

Given their close identification with English colonial rule of Ireland, it is not surprising that the last two MacDermots Roe of Alderford became expatriates as the tide of Irish nationalism rose. Thomas Charles collected his Irish rents while residing in Monaco where he died in 1913. His younger brother and successor Ffrench did likewise and died there in 1917.

Thomas Charles was never married. Ffrench married twice and had two daughters but no son to succeed to the Anglo Irish title "The MacDermot Roe". It appears that the title had been granted to Thomas Charles by the former Ulster Office of Arms, predecessor of the Genealogy Office, based upon an application for a grant of arms supported by the 1865 MacDermot Roe pedigree.

It should be noted that the Anglo orientation of some of the MacDermots Roe was not limited to the Protestant branch of John the Counselor. Mary, daughter of Charles of Alderford (d.1759) who moved to London at 18 and married William Taylor, became a Protestant. Her brother Denis settled in England where he became an apothecary.

Additionally, Patrick MacDermotRoe, probably of the Emlagh branch of the MacDermots Roe, obtained a commission in the British Army. According to the *British Army Lists*, on May 8, 1797 Patrick was appointed Ensign in the Irish Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> (Henry Dillon's) Regiment and on July 4, 1805 was appointed Lieutenant in the 99<sup>th</sup> Foot (Prince of Wales, Tipperary) Regiment. Henry MacDermot of Coolavin (1777-1814), the MacDermot's younger brother was, also, commissioned Ensign in Dillon's Regiment on December 31, 1795.

Ffrench MacDermot Roe, died 1917, had three younger brothers: Fitzgerald, William Andrew and Edward Charles who are said to have immigrated to America in the late 1800's. The author undertook a search of America for their descendants, but none were found among the American MacDermots Roe. It appears that their male line descendants, if any, ceased using the Roe and lost their identity as members of a distinct branch of the MacDermots.

According to *MacDermot of Moylurg*, Alderford passed out of the family in 1926. It was sold by Mrs. Minnie Ffrench Cairns, daughter of Ffrench by his first wife. Although not in the MacDermot Roe family, Alderford is still occupied and cattle graze on the surrounding property.

An interesting development in the family during the period of English colonization was the decline in the number of families identified in public records as MacDermots Roe as a proportion of MacDermots. As discussed above, in the early 1600's, 22 MacDermots Roe appeared on leases in the barony of Boyle in County Roscommon out of 44 MacDermots or half. By the time of the real estate assessment known as Griffith's Valuation, 1848-1864, in all Ireland only about 25 MacDermots Roe appear out of several hundred MacDermots, a tiny percentage.

An example of how dramatically the use of the Roe declined is illustrated by the list of MacDermots who served in the American Civil War (1861-1865). Almost 1,000 MacDermots served on both sides of the war. It can be assumed that a considerable number were MacDermot Roe descendants. However, a search of the lists of Civil War MacDermots revealed only one MacDermot Roe. He was Colonel James MacDermot Roe of Toledo, Ohio and James was listed in the R's under the surname Roe.

The decline in the use of the Roe accelerated in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Irish telephone directory shows even fewer MacDermots Roe than were listed in Griffiths in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. In North America today, the surname with the appellation is quite rare.

The general decline in the use of the Roe poses some difficulty for descendants attempting to retrace their ancestry. However, it is clear that there are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of MacDermot Roe descendants living today in Ireland, North America, Australia and elsewhere.

The preservation of the MacDermots Roe heritage is aided by the resurgence of interest in Celtic music in general and in the music of Turlough Carolan, in particular. In recent years, many new recordings of Carolan's music have been released. Among these are two albums by the late Derek Bell, harpist for "The Chieftains" probably the most famous exponents of Irish traditional music in the world today.

The renewed popularity of Carolan's music is a reminder of the invaluable part that the MacDermots Roe played in preserving Irish culture at its darkest hour. Carolan immortalized their contribution in such compositions as "Mrs. MacDermot Roe", "Henry MacDermot Roe" and "The Princess Royal".

It is somewhat ironic that the same culture of modern record keeping that contributed to the decline in the surname and identity of the MacDermots Roe will, also, ensures its continuation. Computers, unlike clerks, do not grow bored or confused in repeating a long and unusual name.

Once your surname, however unusual, has been put into the computer data bank, there it will remain unchanged as long as bytes exist.



## *Chapter 2*

### *Carolan and the MacDermots Roe*

In the twilight of the Gaelic culture as the English occupation lay heavy upon Ireland, a young blind harpist set out on a journey to compose and perform music for the gentry. In the course of his fifty year journey, the blind harpist created a body of work that did more to preserve Irish culture than ten regiments of soldiers. His name was Turlough Carolan and his patrons were the MacDermots Roe.

Carolan (1670-1738) was born near Nobber in County Meath. His family like many others lost its land to English confiscation and was compelled to move west of the Shannon. They settled in the vicinity of Carrick-on-Shannon.

Carolan's father, John, found employment with the MacDermot Roe family of Alderford in Kilronan Parish of County Roscommon. The MacDermots Roe operated iron foundries at several locations in Kilronan including at Ballyfarnon near Alderford. It is likely that John O'Carolan was a blacksmith as this skill would have been extremely useful in the ironworks operation.

When Turlough Carolan was a teenager, he was afflicted with small pox. While the disease did not take his life, it took his sight.

Mary Fitzgerald MacDermot Roe, the wife of Henry Baccach, took young Carolan under her care. At the time, Mary was a young woman, perhaps only 10 years older than Carolan, and probably had young children of her own. Nonetheless, she saw to it that Carolan's education continued despite his blindness. The two continued to have a close relationship throughout their lives.

As a blind youngster in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Carolan's career opportunities were greatly restricted. Recognizing that the boy had musical ability, Mary had Carolan instructed in the harp by a MacDermot Roe cousin. The harp was the instrument most closely associated with traditional Irish music. It had been used to entertain Irish chiefs and their clans at gatherings from time immemorial.

When Carolan was about 21, Henry and Mary gave Turlough a horse and a servant and encouraged him to travel around Ireland to perform for gentry. Since there were many itinerant harpers in Ireland at the time, no one knew that the MacDermot Roe patronage would have a profound influence on Irish culture.

Carolan's first stop was at the home of George Reynolds of Letterfian, County Longford. Reynolds suggested to the harpist that he try composing an original composition based on a competition between the fairy hosts of two neighboring hills. The result was Carolan's first composition, "Sheebeg and Sheemor". The tune, among the most beautiful of all his songs, demonstrated his great gift as composer.

Until his death, Carolan traveled from home to home, composing and performing songs for his distinguished hosts. In addition to the MacDermots Roe, Carolan was especially close to their friends the O'Connor's of Belanagare. Carolan instructed Charles O'Connor, 1710-1791, the famous historian, in the harp. The O'Connor's while in exile from Belanagare lived for many years at Knockmore, Kilmactranny, within walking distance of Alderford. Later Charles O'Connor's sister, Eleanor, married Mary's youngest son Charles and resided with him at Alderford.

In the tradition of ancient bards, Carolan set his songs to words of praise for his host. He would often compose tunes while traveling and then create lyrics for the family he was next to visit. It is generally agreed that his artistic fame rests on his music rather than his lyrics. However, the songs are an important source of historical information about the prominent Irish families in the region in which he traveled.

Carolan was greatly in demand for special events. He performed for the O'Conors on the occasion of their first Christmas in their new home at Belanagare. He, also, performed at patrons' weddings and composed elegies on the death of famous Irishmen.

Although Carolan's compositions are best known through traditional Celtic music, Carolan was, also, a serious student of classical music. He was an admirer of Italian composers Corelli, Vivaldi and Geminini, the last being a personal acquaintance of Carolan. Additionally, Carolan collaborated with the author Jonathan Swift in translating a poem by Carolan's friend, Hugh Magauran, "Pléaraca na Ruarcach" or "O'Rourke's Feast," for which Carolan wrote the music.

The great romantic interest of Carolan's life was Bridget Cruise who lived near Nobber, Meath. He composed several songs for her.

Unfortunately, the love was unrequited. Bridget married a member of the prominent Anglo-Irish Barnewall family of Meath.

In 1720, Carolan, now 50, married young Mary Maguire. The couple had seven children, one boy and six girls and lived in Mohill, County Leitrim. Mary died in 1733.

Throughout his career, Carolan often returned to stay with the MacDermots Roe at Alderford. He regarded them as his second family and composed many songs in their honor. Among those which have been preserved are "Henry MacDermot Roe", "Elizabeth MacDermot Roe" and "Mrs. MacDermot Roe".

In addition to composing the above pieces for the MacDermots Roe of Alderford, Carolan composed pieces entitled "Father Brian MacDermot Roe" and "Edmond MacDermot Roe". Neither of these names is found in the Alderford MacDermot Roe family, but they are found in the MacDermots Roe of Emlagh, a large and prosperous branch that flourished in West Central County Roscommon about 28 miles south of Alderford during Carolan's time.

It is not unlikely that Edmond MacDermot Roe of Carolan's composition was the Edmond MacDermot Roe of Emlagh whose daughter, Catherine, married Owen O'Connor of Corrasduna in 1720. Father Brian MacDermot Roe may have closely related to Brian MacDermot Roe of Castletehen in Emlagh whose will was proved in 1727. See Chapter 7, *infra*, for details on the MacDermots Roe of Emlagh.

In 1738 when Carolan sensed that his end was near, he returned to Alderford to be with Mary MacDermot Roe and her family. Mary personally attended Carolan during his final illness. She was at his bedside when he died along with Eleanor O'Connor who married Mary's youngest son Charles.

As news of Carolan's passing spread, Ballyfarnon, the village by Alderford, was engulfed with mourners. After a wake of four days, Carolan's body was loaded on a hearse by pall bearers that included Mary's sons, Charles of Alderford and Father Thomas MacDermot Roe, later Bishop of Ardagh. At the burial attended by upwards of 60 clergymen, Carolan was interred in the MacDermot Roe chapel at nearby Kilronan Abbey.

Carolan has been called the last of the great bards. The tradition of traveling harpers performing for the gentry declined to virtual extinction in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Harp playing itself became something of a rarity in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Fortunately, musicologists preserved many of O'Carolan's compositions. His songs played a crucial part in the revival of Celtic music which began in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Important musical groups such as the Chieftains with famed harpist Derek Bell included many of O'Carolan's compositions in their repertoire. Indeed, today there are a tremendous number of CDs available featuring O'Carolan's works. Among those that are exclusively devoted to his composition is "*Celtic Treasure, the legacy of Turlough O'Carolan*", Narada Media, 1996.

Irish music is a very important part of Irish culture. It has, also, played a very important role in the music of North America. Irish music incarnated in North America in such forms as blue grass and country music and these musical genres in turn have a strong influence on popular music globally. It may be said that in their patronage of O'Carolan, the MacDermots Roe helped preserve the Gaelic musical tradition, not just for Ireland, but also, for the world.

Sources: The principal sources on the life of O'Carolan and his relations with the MacDermots Roe are the *Life of O'Carolan*, Munday-O'Reilly Manuscript, National Library of Ireland, Dublin, Microfilm Positive #4132 which the author examined in Dublin and *Carolan, The Life, Times and Music of an Irish Harper*, Donal O'Sullivan, originally published by Routledge & Keegan, London (1958), republished by Celtic Music, Louth, England (1983, 1991).

## *Chapter 3*

# *MacDermots Roe and the French Revolution*

Bloody, tumultuous Paris of the French Revolution is a long way from the tranquility of County Roscommon, Ireland. Yet as the tumbrels carried their victims to the guillotine during the Reign of Terror in 1792-1793, two cousins, Mary MacDermotRoe and Colonel Thomas MacDermot Roe waited anxiously in French jails for news of their fate. Would they be returned to freedom or were they to join the long line of condemned prisoners?

Mary MacDermot Roe, born 1758/9 was the youngest child of Charles MacDermotRoe of Alderford, Kilronan Parish, County Roscommon and his wife Eleanor O'Connor, sister of the Irish historian and Catholic rights leader Charles O'Connor of Belanagar.<sup>xvi</sup> Fortunately, Mary gave an interview recorded in the Mundy-O'Reilly manuscript history of the life of Turlough O'Carolan. From this interview, we are able to piece together some important details of her life.<sup>xvii</sup>

Charles MacDermotRoe, a Catholic, had been given a long term lease of Alderford in 1752 by his mother Mary Fitzgerald, widow of Henry Baccach MacDermot Roe and the patroness of Turlough Carolan, shortly before her death. However, after Charles' premature death in 1759, Charles' older brother John, a lawyer who had become a Protestant, dispossessed widow Eleanor and her children of Alderford. The court records are not available but it would appear that John's case was based on the English imposed penal laws which greatly restricted the property rights of Catholics.

As the result, Mary, an infant, and the rest of her family were turned out of Alderford and lived, according to Mary, in "reduced circumstances" at various homes in the area. When she was about 18, Mary traveled to London. Her brother Denis had gone to England to apprentice as an apothecary and she may have stayed with him.

While in England she met and married William Taylor, a Protestant merchant, about 1778. She subsequently became a Protestant herself. This was a matter of great chagrin to her uncle Charles O'Connor, the historian,

who alludes to the event in his correspondence. In a letter dated February 6, 1789, O'Connor wrote:

"I was not much surprised at the apostasy of my sister's daughter (Mary, daughter of Eleanor). I renounce her, for where there is no kindred of principle or morals a kindred by blood is, of course, dissolved."<sup>xviii</sup>

In the Mundy-O'Reilly manuscript, Mary states that she and her husband William went to Paris in July of 1791. It would appear likely that William was there for business reasons. There were a great many English merchants in Paris at the time.

Why would Mary and her husband have gone there during such a dangerous time? While the French Revolution had begun two years earlier, it appeared to many that it was essentially over by the summer of 1791. It seemed that the King Louis XVI had, albeit reluctantly, accepted the reality of a constitutional monarchy and that France could look forward to stability and prosperity.

However, in the summer of 1792, the Austrians and Prussians attacked France with the apparent complicity of Louis XVI. The Revolution then turned into a radical phase. On August 10, 1792, a mob attacked the Tuileries Palace where King Louis was residing, killing his Swiss guards and threatening the royal family. In September, 1792, a mob, incited by Marat, a writer and leader of the Paris Commune, brutally massacred 1,500 people, mainly clergy, and looted the victims' possessions.

Soon thereafter, King Louis was arrested and put on trial for treason. After the execution of the King on January 21, 1793, the radicals assumed complete control of the government under the Committee of Public Safety. They appointed a new state prosecutor, Fouquier-Tinville, to arrest and convict all real or supposed enemies of the revolution. So began the infamous Reign of Terror.

The arrests were authorized under a "Law of Suspects" passed by the Convention in September 1793. The Law gave the government broad authority to arrest anyone suspected of disloyalty. Additionally, citizens could be arrested merely for failing to possess a certificate of loyalty from a local revolutionary official. Under the "Law of Suspects", all English and other persons of foreign origin were considered suspects and to be arrested.<sup>xix</sup> So while aristocrats and others with ties to the Old Regime were apprehended, foreigners were, also, targeted on the ground that they might be intriguing with foreign governments to overthrow the Revolution.

Mary states in her interview that she and William were arrested during the Reign of Terror. While we don't know the exact date of her arrest, it would have been the latter part of 1793 or early 1794. Although Mary was Irish, Ireland was, at that time part of the United Kingdom. As British subjects she and her husband would have been caught in the round up of foreigners.<sup>xx</sup>

What was her experience like in prison during the Reign of Terror? Prison conditions may not have been as harsh as those depicted in Hollywood movies. French historian Jean Robiquet states:

"...considered individually and forgetting for the moment the tumbrels of Fouquier-Tinville, there was nothing particularly hard in the life prisoners led. In fact, the regime applied to detainees was often almost liberal."<sup>xxi</sup>

According to Robiquet, the prisoners were not held in old prisons of the former regime, but rather in convents closed by the Revolution and turned into detainment centers. The prisoners at the convents were generally not restricted to a room but were allowed to roam throughout the convent and socialize with other prisoners.

The convent turned prison at Saint Lazare is given as an example of conditions William and Mary may have experienced,

"As Saint-Lazare was lacking in beds, its involuntary pensioners were allowed to bring their own. Many then took advantage of this rule to have complete sets of furniture brought ...The rooms were generally occupied by two or three persons, but they were large, airy and commanded a view which stretched as far as the slopes of Mont-Valerien. No bars on the windows, no bolts outside the doors, and especially during the first months, no fixed curfew...

"Letters were delivered unopened and were sent in the same way. It was also permissible for detainees to be sent parcels. (Prisoners) could have their purchases delivered from outside and then cook their meals on the small portable stoves which were installed in the corridors."

In addition to being allowed to move freely about the Saint-Lazare convent to visit friends, prisoners could participate in games organized in the convent's yards. Some prisoners occupied their time with all kinds of work, played music, painted and sketched. According to Robiquet, numerous

accounts of life in Revolutionary era prisons suggest that conditions at other convent/prisons were similar to Saint-Lazare.<sup>xxii</sup>

On the other hand, there was the daily anxiety that one might be called before the Prosecutor for trial. These affairs were speedy. A person could be tried, sentenced and executed in one day.

As Mary and her husband William waited anxiously in prison to learn their fate, the Reign of Terror took its bloody course. From June, 1793 to July 27, 1794, 300,000 suspects were arrested. 17,000 were tried, sentenced and executed and many others either died in prison or were killed without trial.

Mary and her husband were saved when Robespierre the leader of the government during the Reign of Terror was, himself, executed on July 27, 1794 and the Reign of Terror ended. The people had had enough of the chaos and killing. However, Mary and William must have suffered the worst fear during the final days of their imprisonment. The pace of executions reached its peak just before Robespierre's downfall. Between June 10, 1794 and July, 27 1794, 1,366 were executed.

Surprisingly, William and Mary stayed in Paris after their release from prison. Perhaps William returned to his business and resumed a fairly normal life. Unfortunately, William died just two years later in 1796 leaving Mary a widow.

Mary soon returned to Ireland where she lived in County Roscommon with her mother for a time. She later remarried William Coulter, an old acquaintance of the family. William, an engineer, was originally from County Down but lived with Mary's family around 1780.<sup>xxiii</sup> He may have come to Kilronan to work on the new coal mining industry in the Arigna Mountains. Mary and William Coulter were living in Arigna at the time of his death in 1829.

In the Mundy-O'Reilly manuscript, Mary recalls that she and her mother Eleanor used to walk together to the burial place of Carolan in the MacDermotRoe family chapel at Kilronan Abbey near Alderford. There, her mother would place a ribbon in the skull of her old friend Turlough who died in 1738. Eleanor who lived to be, at least, 100, died about 1808.

Mary lived to the age of 76 dying in 1835. She apparently remained in Kilronan after the death of her husband William Coulter. She was buried in Kilronan Abbey. However, her gravestone no longer survives.



Mary's cousin, Colonel Thomas MacDermot Roe, was, also, caught up in the French Revolution's Reign of Terror and was imprisoned. Thomas was a representative of an important branch of the MacDermots Roe that flourished in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in an area known as Emlagh not far from Roscommon Town.<sup>xxiv</sup> This area is located between Tulsk and Roscommon Town, about 25 miles south of the MacDermot Roe base of Kilronan in the northeast corner of County Roscommon. Covering several civil parishes including Baslick, Oran, Cloonygormican and Kilbride, it is called Emlagh, meaning "marsh", because of the many townlands including the word Emlagh in their names. The MacDermots Roe of Emlagh are discussed in detail in Chapter 7, *infra*.

Colonel Thomas MacDermot Roe was born about 1751 - very possibly the grandson of Thomas MacDermot Roe of Castlemehen a wealthy merchant and farmer. Young Thomas devoted himself to the military. By 1785, he was a Colonel in the Athleague Rangers.<sup>xxv</sup> Sir Dermot states that sometime after January 1786, Colonel Thomas went to France as a Lieutenant Colonel in Dillon's Regiment. Thomas was at one point at Harfleur in the departement of Seine Inferiure (now Seine Maritime) and he was a member of the French Jockey Club.<sup>xxvi</sup>

However, French historian Mathieu Ferradou tracked down Colonel Thomas' prison file. It shows that the Colonel, arrested by the French government on December 16, 1793, a widower with no children came to France in 1790 and had not served in the French army. Perhaps Sir Dermot confused Colonel Thomas MacDermot Roe with Colonel Thomas MacDermot, a former French officer, who was appointed executive officer of the new Dillon's Regiment UK, organized during the French Revolution.

Colonel Thomas of Emlagh was a political activist. Historian Mathieu Ferradou, who specializes in French Irish relations during the French Revolution discovered that Thomas was among the Irish nationalists attending a famous political dinner on November 18, 1792 at the White Hotel in Paris. The guests at this dinner celebrated the success of the French arms and their recent victory at Jemappes. On November 24 they wrote an address to the French Convention which they presented on the 28th.

So this places Thomas among the Irish nationalists who saw the French Revolution as an inspiration for Irish liberation from British imperialism. As a supporter of the Revolution, it is not clear why the French revolutionary authorities would have arrested him. Perhaps, like Mary, he was caught up in the mass arrest of British subjects.

It would appear that Colonel Thomas' prison conditions at the Temple Prison were much more difficult than those experienced by Mary MacDermot Roe. As evidenced by his correspondence from prison, he anticipated that he might not survive his ordeal. While Sir Dermot believed that the Colonel died in prison, this was not the case.

Fortunately, Colonel Thomas' prison correspondence survived and is kept at the French archives with a microfilm copy at the National Library of Ireland in Dublin. In a June 3, 1793 letter to his brother Owen, Thomas charged Owen, as his heir, to take care of citoyenne Noel who was kind to him while he was in prison.<sup>xxvii</sup>

So who was Noel? And why was Noel, a male name, referred to by the feminine title Citoyenne (as opposed to the masculine Citoyen). An educated person like the Colonel was not likely to make such a mistake.

The mystery was solved by the diligent research of Mathieu Ferradou who, also, tracked down Colonel Thomas' letters.

It turns out that Noel was a woman named Marguerite. After his release from prison in 1794, Colonel Thomas lived with Marguerite until they both died in 1801. The correspondence shows that the Colonel traveled to Hamburg, ostensibly on business.

However, the letters hint at the possibility that Colonel Thomas may have been involved with the United Irishmen, a nationalist group under Wolfe Tone that fomented the failed Irish rebellion of 1798. The French supported the rebellion but the French army arrived in Ireland too late and in too small numbers to help the Irish rebels overcome the English occupying force.

The amazing presence of not one, but two, MacDermots Roe in Paris during the French Revolution reveals much about their times and about the personal relationship that we all have to history in the broadest sense. Let's consider both aspects of their stories.

We tend to think of travel and mobility as a phenomena of modern times. Yet the lives of these two 18<sup>th</sup> century members of the MacDermot Roe family tell a quite different story. Mary though born and raised in rural Roscommon lived in both London and Paris. Her travels reflected the tremendous boom in trade which occurred in Ireland and elsewhere during the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This economic expansion at the dawn of the industrial age required a high degree of mobility especially in the merchant class.

Likewise, Colonel Thomas MacDermot Roe's presence in Paris reflects the 18<sup>th</sup> century diaspora of important Irish families like the MacDermots for military service and business. During this period, a great party was held at the house of Clement MacDermot Roe in Thomastown, County Louth where twenty four MacDermots, all officers in foreign military service, "danced in the parlor to a patriotic air struck up by the family harper."<sup>xxviii</sup>

Examples of the commercial diaspora are Bryan MacDermot Roe and Michael McDermott, merchants, who operated out of the port of Rouen, France in the early 1700's. As discussed they were part of an international family owned trading business. This business may have extended to the United States in the late 1700's. An S.C. Dermott built a mill on the Hudson River at River Road and Mill Street (later 4<sup>th</sup> Street) in West Troy, later Watervliet, New York in 1795. He may be Stephen Christopher of the Dublin/Louth MacDermots Roe.

Finally, the experiences of Mary MacDermot Roe and Colonel Thomas MacDermot Roe during the French Revolution remind us that family history is simply "History" written close up. Their lives and our lives are an integral part of the larger historical events around us. War, depression, technological innovation and political upheaval affect each one of us, shaping our lives and those of our descendants.

## *Chapter 4*

### *MacDermots Roe in Religious Service*

Since the 1300's, the MacDermots Roe have been prominent in religious service, both, as clergy and as lay people. Below are some examples:

#### **Dermot Roe MacDermot, died 1341**

Dermot Roe, the grandson of Dermot Dall MacDermot, died in the Cistercian habit and was buried at Boyle Abbey. Although Dermot Dall was named Dermot Roe before he was blinded by the King of Connacht in 1266, it is said that the MacDermots Roe adopted the surname distinguishing the branch from his grandson Dermot Roe.<sup>xxix</sup> Boyle Abbey was founded in 1161 on land provided to the Cistercians by the MacDermots and the MacDermots continued to be closely involved with the Abbey until its dissolution.<sup>xxx</sup>

Since Dermot Roe had a family, one would surmise that he joined the Cistercians late in life after his children were grown and, probably, after his wife had died. In ending his years as a monk, Dermot Roe followed the example of his ancestor Conor MacDermot, King of Moylurg (1186-1197), who died in the novitiate of a monk at Boyle Abbey and, like Dermot Roe, was buried there.<sup>xxxi</sup>

#### **Manus MacDermot Roe, died 1380**

Manus was the Abbot of the monastery on Trinity Island on Loch Ce near Boyle. The monastery was founded by the Premonstratensians (reformed Augustinians) in 1215. Loch Ce was, also, the site of the MacDermot stronghold, the Rock. Manus was the son of Dermot Roe MacDermot, died 1341.<sup>xxxii</sup>

## **Maelsechlain MacDermot Roe, flourished 1385**

According to authorities on the medieval religious establishments in Ireland, the Dominican Priory of the Holy Cross at Cloonshanville was almost certainly founded by the MacDermots Roe in 1385.<sup>xxxiii</sup> Based on the MacDermotRoe pedigree, the head of the MacDermots Roe at the time was Maelsechlain MacDermotRoe. Cloonshanville is located in County Roscommon near modern day Frenchpark.

At the time of the establishment of the Priory at Cloonshanville, the MacDermots Roe served as Biatachs General of Connacht, a kingdom covering west central Ireland including County Roscommon. As Biatach General, MacDermotRoe was responsible for the welfare of the poor and homeless and for the provision of food and shelter to travelers throughout Connacht.<sup>xxxiv</sup> Since religious establishments provided social services such as these in medieval Ireland, the establishment of the Cloonshanville would have been consistent with MacDermot Roe's duties as Biatach.

Cloonshanville Priory fits into the movement for reform which began in the mendicant monasteries in Connacht after the Black Death (1348-1349). The mendicant orders, including Dominicans, Franciscans, Carmelites and Augustinians, helped the poor, the sick and lepers and provided shelter for pilgrims and travelers.<sup>xxxv</sup>

The Priory's ivy covered bell-tower still stands and some ruined walls may be seen. A tall stone cross with stunted arms is located in a nearby field and may point to the presence of an earlier foundation. An interesting feature is a piscina in the church. The piscina was a basin made from stone and used for washing sacred vessels. It was placed near the altar and a little drain from it led down to the foundation.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

The MacDermots Roe had a long association with the Priory at Cloonshanville. Indeed, as noted below, the last Prior at Cloonshanville was Bernard MacDermotRoe. Although the Priory is located a considerable distance from the MacDermotRoe base in Kilronan Parish, the area around the Priory was the home of a large group of MacDermots Roe as shown in the Elphin Census of 1749.<sup>xxxvii</sup>

## **Bernard MacDermot Roe, died after 1698**

Bernard was Prior of the Dominican Priory at Cloonshanville in 1698 when he was forced into exile with the onset of the Penal Laws. He went to live in a Dominican House in the Province of Occitania where he died.<sup>xxxviii</sup>

Occitania, a linguistic and culturally defined region, is located mostly in southern France.

### **Ambrose MacDermot Roe, died 1717**

Ambrose was Bishop of Elphin 1707-1717. The diocese of Elphin includes most of County Roscommon, Ireland.<sup>xxxix</sup> In *MacDermot of Moylurg* at page 298, Dermot MacDermot refers to an unnamed source stating that Ambrose was definitely a MacDermot Roe.

Ambrose was educated at the Dominican monastery at Tulsk in Central Roscommon. He taught theology at the college of Saints Sixtus and Clemente in Rome serving as Prior there from 1686 to 1689. He later served at the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore.<sup>xl</sup> In April 1707, King James II of England, in exile at Saint Germain-en-Laye, France following his overthrow by William of Orange, recommended Ambrose as bishop of Elphin to Pope Clement XI.<sup>xli</sup>

Ambrose's appointment came at the time when England was assiduously enforcing the Penal Laws aimed at suppressing Catholicism in Ireland.<sup>xlii</sup> His journey to Ireland was interrupted by arrest and imprisonment in England. In a 1709 letter to the Vatican from a hiding place in Elphin Diocese, Ambrose states that he was living in dreadful conditions in a kind of hut on a hillside. Nonetheless, Ambrose reported in 1714 that he succeeded in ordaining 32 Catholic Priests in the Elphin Diocese. He died at Cloontuskert, County Roscommon in 1717.<sup>xliii</sup>

Ambrose was probably the son of Sir Terence MacDermot, Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1689. Sir Terence had a son Ambrose and had real estate interests in the vicinity of Tulsk.<sup>xliv</sup> A prominent Jacobite, Sir Terence followed King James II to France where the king made him captain of a privateer vessel.<sup>xlv</sup> It may be that Terence's association with James II, a Catholic, was important in securing Ambrose's appointment as bishop.

### **Thomas MacDermot Roe, died 1751**

Thomas, the third son of Carolan's patrons, was Bishop of Ardagh, 1747-1751.<sup>xlvi</sup> The diocese of Ardagh included the parish of Kilronan. After Thomas's tenure as bishop, Ardagh was combined with the adjacent diocese to form the diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois.<sup>xlvii</sup>

In 1744, Thomas was the titular dean of the diocese of Ardagh and lived at Ballyfarnon, Kilronan Parish where the MacDermot Roe seat Alderford is located. On May 8, 1747, he was appointed bishop of Ardagh. A letter from Cardinal Carsini at the Vatican indicates that Thomas was requested to retain administration of the parish of Kilronan while he was Bishop of Ardagh. Thomas may have administered the last rites to Carolan who died at Alderford in 1738. <sup>xlviii</sup>

### **Elphin Postulation of 1748**

The important role of MacDermot Roe lay people in Church affairs is shown in the Elphin Postulation of 1748. The postulation asked for the recommendation of prominent Catholics as to nominees for the new Bishop of Elphin, a diocese encompassing most of County Roscommon.

Those whose views were solicited included Thomas McDermottroe of Castlemeyen (Kilbride Civil Parish), Edmund McDermottroe of Emlagh (Baslick Civil Parish), Bernard McDermottroe, as well as, Terence McDermott of Ballyglass (Baslick Civil Parish), John McDermott of Highlake (Cloonygormican Civil Parish) and James McDermott of Ballymakerly (Cloonygormican Civil Parish). *The Diocese of Elphin, 1747-1802: Documents from Roman Archives*, Hugh Fenning, *Collectanea Hibernica*, No. 36/37 (1994/1995), page 163.

The last three named are believed to be MacDermot Roe descendants of the branch of Terence McDermott, Lord Mayor of Dublin 1689 whose son was Ambrose MacDermot Roe, Bishop of Elphin. All six were of the Emlagh group of MacDermots Roe that resided in West Central County Roscommon and is discussed in detail in Chapter 7, *infra*.

Other families included in the Postulation were the O'Conors whose many representatives included Eugene O'Connor of Corrasduna which appears to be in Drumatemple Civil Parish. Owen O'Connor of Corrasduna, perhaps Eugene's father, married Catherine, the daughter of Edmund MacDermot Roe of Emlagh who flourished circa 1700. Also, included in the Postulation were the O'Flynn's, Plunketts and Irwins, specifically, Christopher Irwin of Rockfield, Castlestrange, Fuerty Civil Parish, John Irwin of Oran, Oran Civil Parish and John Irwin of Lybegg, Drumatemple Civil Parish.

## *Chapter 5*

# *Freemasonry and the MacDermots*

The MacDermots – freemasons? How can that be? The MacDermots have a very strong Catholic tradition and the Catholic Church disapproves of freemasonry.

Nonetheless, the MacDermots and the MacDermots Roe were extremely active in freemasonry in Ireland in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In fact, the most important freemason of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was a MacDermot Roe – Laurence Dermott of London.

First, here's a little background on freemasonry. Modern freemasonry traces its origins to associations of stone masons established in the middle ages. These associations, known as lodges, were an important way for builders who often traveled from town to town for their projects to maintain close social and professional contact.

Secrecy was an important element of the early Masonic lodges in order that important technical knowledge was kept within the membership. It was only after a period of training and advancement that a person could acquire or be initiated in all the important techniques of building.

As a social organization, the Masonic lodges became attractive to non-builders. They evidently found its tight brotherhood to be a good environment for establishing friendship with others who shared similar values. Masons who were professional builders were known as operative masons while those who were not were called speculative masons. Over time, a majority of masons were speculative.

Irish freemasons claim that their fraternity existed in Ireland from time immemorial. There was a strong stone building tradition in Ireland in the middle ages and it is likely that operative masons formed lodges during this period. However, the earliest documented reference to Irish freemasons is in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and lodge records are not available before the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.



Freemasonry was an especially important institution during the 18<sup>th</sup> century Enlightenment. Lodges provided a secure place where educated, public minded men could freely discuss controversial subjects disturbing to the ruling elite such as the need for constitutional reform or even republicanism. It has been said the French Revolution was born in freemasonry lodges and Masonic lodges may have played a similar role with respect to the Irish rebellion of 1798.

Until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Catholics were strongly represented in Irish freemason lodges. Indeed, the 18<sup>th</sup> century enlightenment ideals embraced by freemasons were very conducive to membership by both Catholics and Protestants. Once inside the fraternity, sectarian differences were set aside in deference to principles of freedom and universal brotherhood. It was not until 1826 when the Irish bishops started to enforce the papal ban on freemasonry that Catholics left the organization.

Laurence Dermott (1720-June, 1791) was the son of Thomas Dermott, a successful merchant of Francis Street, Dublin.<sup>xlix</sup> Thomas had a family home in Strokestown, County Roscommon.<sup>1</sup> Thomas' brother Anthony (1700-1784) ran a successful trading operation from Usher's Quay, Dublin. The family traded internationally in a wide range of goods including wine and owned and operated ships.

As discussed in Chapter 7, *infra*, Laurence's family was part of a large and influential branch of the MacDermots Roe that was well established, not only in Dublin, but also, in County Louth and in an area of West Central County Roscommon referred to here as Emlagh. Emlagh is more than 20 miles south of the traditionally assumed MacDermot Roe base in Kilronan Parish in north eastern Roscommon. Contemporary documents show here were many MacDermots Roe in Emlagh in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in Emlagh and their presence in the area may date from much earlier.

Laurence was probably born in the vicinity of Strokestown which is located a short distance east of Tulsk. At the time he was born, the MacDermots Roe had considerable holdings in the area including Michael, d. 1732 of Castlemehen (just north of Roscommon Town), Brian, d. 1728 of Castletehen (just southwest of Tulsk) and Thomas (c.1690-November 1765) of Cloonyquin in 1721 just north of Tulsk and, after Michael's death, of Castlemehen.

According to the official history of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, Lawrence Dermott was initiated as a freemason in Ireland on 14 January 1740-41 and installed as the Master, chief officer, of Lodge 26 in Dublin. Lepper and Crossle, authors of the *Grand Lodge History*, assume that

Lawrence was continuing a family tradition of freemasonry and this seems reasonable.<sup>li</sup>

In 1748, Lawrence went to London. His initial occupation was journeyman painter. It is unclear whether he was an artist or in the painting business. In any event, his arrival there may have related to family business contacts as he was later a wine merchant.

At the time Lawrence arrived in London, there were many other Irish freemasons living there. Freemasonry in England was then nominally under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England established in 1717. The purpose of the Grand Lodge like those in other jurisdictions was to establish rules for the practice of freemasonry and to issue “warrants” for the creation of new local lodges.

The Irish in England chaffed under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England. While some of their resentment may have been due to English religious and national prejudice, there were other bases for their dissatisfaction with the Grand Lodge of England.

While freemasonry had traditionally been exclusively Christian and Trinitarian, in 1738, the Grand Lodge of England adopted the Anderson charges which opened up membership to anyone believing in a divine being. The Irish strongly adhered to freemasonry’s traditional association with Christianity.<sup>lii</sup> This would seem to restrict membership to Catholics, Anglicans and other Protestants who accepted the Trinity.

In addition to the religious disagreement, the Irish who had been initiated to freemasonry in Irish lodges had different Masonic practices. In particular, they supported the practice of initiating members into higher levels, such as the Royal Arch, to mark the progress of masons beyond the Master Mason level. Lawrence was admitted to the Royal Arch in 1746 while a mason in Dublin.<sup>liii</sup> The Grand Lodge of England objected to this practice which it viewed as irregular.

There was, also, a social aspect to the split between the Irish and the English. The members of the Grand Lodge of England were drawn from the wealthy and well connected and their lodges were on the way to becoming gentlemen’s clubs. In contrast, the Irish freemasons in England were largely drawn from the artisan class.<sup>liv</sup>

Finally, there was an important political dimension. The Irish, especially the Irish Catholics, were generally Jacobites – supporters of the Stuart claim to the throne of England. MacDermots, including Captain Henry

MacDermot Roe (probably of the Alderford branch) and several members of the MacDermot Roe Emlagh branch fought for King James II who was deposed in England by William of Orange in 1688 and defeated thereafter in Ireland. The Grand Lodge of England was a creature of the German based House of Hanover which governed England after William. Its leaders were naturally fearful of Jacobites especially given the near success of Bonnie Prince Charles Stuart in re-taking the English throne in 1745.

As the result, the Irish in England started to organize themselves in private lodges outside the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England. In July 1751, about 70 or 80 of them met to form a new Grand Lodge which was to become known as the Grand Lodge of England (Antients) as opposed to the 1717 established Grand Lodge of England (Moderns).

On February 5, 1752, Laurence Dermott was elected Grand Secretary of the Antients and played the key role in the steadily rising organization over the next four decades. He served as Grand Secretary from 1752 to 1771 and Deputy Grand Master from 1771-1777 and again from 1783-1787.

Dermott's administrative skills contributed greatly to the expansion of the Antients system of Masonic lodges. Eventually, the Antients network of lodges outstripped that of the Moderns. The Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland recognized the Antients as the legitimate Grand Lodge of England. Additionally, many regiments of the British Army organized Antients lodges.

Dermott was, not only, an effective organizer, but also, an influential writer. In 1756, he published a book entitled *Ahiman Rezon* (understood to mean "Thoughts of a Faithful Brother") in which he set forth the laws and philosophy of the Antients Grand Lodge. In his 1764 edition, he added a famous polemic against the Moderns.

Dermott's book was widely known outside England, including the American colonies. According to Lepper and Crossle, "Few books have had so great influence among English speaking lodges" and they described the work as "a slogan to all Antients masons."

Dermott's book was especially well received among Irish freemasons:

*"From the appearance of this book it may be said to have formed the basis of every subsequent official publication by the Grand Lodge of Ireland and not a few unofficial ones. Its ready adoptions by the Grand Lodge of Ireland shows how close the Irish and Antient rites must have lain. Whenever the name crops up, let us not forget that it was written by an*

*Irish mason for the English Craft, and traveled all over the world wherever Antient freemasonry was known.”<sup>lv</sup>*

Laurence Dermott was not the only McDermott to embrace freemasonry. Among the subscribers in 1760 to *Ahiman Rezon* was Michael McDermott, merchant – probably a member of the Tusk-Roscommon MacDermots Roe. Michael was one of 14 members of the Strokestown Lodge No. 340 subscribing to the book. It seems likely that Laurence remained close to his native area and that Michael and the others may well have been personal friends of Laurence.

We are not sure if Lawrence’s uncle, Anthony, was a freemason, but he was certainly close to them. In 1736, Anthony was trustee in the marriage settlement of Thomas Mathew, of a prominent Anglo-Catholic family, who became Grand Master of Antients 1766-1770. Interestingly, Anthony and other close relations of his were devout Catholics and active in the Catholic Rights Association established by historian Charles O’Conor whose sister married Charles MacDermot Roe of Alderford.

Boyle Lodge 338 was the lodge nearest to the ancient MacDermot headquarters at Loch Ce. The list of members of Lodge 338 initiated since June 24, 1769 includes:

Edward McDermott  
Michael McDermott (from 1769)  
-----Dermott (from 1769)  
T. McDermott  
Henry McDermott (1818)  
Tom McDermott (1821)<sup>lvi</sup>

Note that all the memberships were before the Catholic bishops began enforcing the Church’s ban on freemasonry for Catholics.

MacDermots were especially influential in freemasonry in 18<sup>th</sup> century Dublin. The list of Masters and Wardens of Irish lodges of the Grand Lodge of Ireland from June 24 to December 27, 1793 shows the following MacDermots:

Roger McDermott, Warden, Lodge 207, 82 Bridge Street  
John McDermott, Warden, Lodge 324, 9 Eustace Street  
Christopher McDermott, Lodge 353, 2 Hoey’s Court<sup>lvii</sup>

Christopher might be a sibling of Laurence as Laurence’s grandfather was Christopher Dermott, a merchant of Usher’s Quay. He may, also, be the

Christopher McDermott who in 1789-1790 was Warden of the Merchant Taylors Guild of Dublin. It was in the Merchant Taylors Guild that the Dublin chapter of the United Irishmen convened. Attorney Owen McDermott, brother of the Colonel Thomas MacDermot Roe of Emlagh, the Irish nationalist imprisoned during the French Revolution, was the group's secretary.

In Ireland many Masonic lodges practiced the granting of advanced Masonic degrees such as the Royal Arch and the High Knights Templar. The Early Grand Encampment of the High Knights Templar of Ireland was revived on September 26, 1786. Its roster of members shows "Sir Henry M'Dermotroe" as initiated on July 30, 1787.<sup>lviii</sup>

Henry was probably the second son of Charles MacDermot Roe of Alderford. He was born about 1753 and expelled from Alderford following his father's death in 1759. Charles' brother, John, an attorney, had conformed to the Church of England and ousted his brother's widow Eleanor O'Connor and her children from Alderford - possibly under some provision of the Penal Laws.

Charles MacDermot Roe was known to be a friend of the Earl of Kingston.<sup>lix</sup> The Earl was a member of the King family, the leading Anglo-Irish family in the Boyle area whose seat was at Rockingham near Loch Ce. Indeed the two families were close friends from the time of the King's arrival in Ireland in the late 1500's. Their friendship survived the fact that the Kings in 1603 were granted the land of Boyle Abbey, an institution founded on a MacDermot donation.

Lepper and Crossle suggest that the McDermott's ancient friendship with the Kings is an indication of a very old Masonic tradition in the MacDermot family since the Kings were famous masons. James, the fourth Lord Kingston, was one of the most important leaders in 18th century Irish freemasonry. He served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland 1731, 1735, 1745 and 1746 and was Grand Master of Munster in 1731. The first warrant of the Grand Lodge of Ireland was issued in 1731 to James' private lodge in Mitchelstown, County Cork.

One may speculate that the MacDermots might have an even more ancient relationship with the Knights Templar. Leaders of the freemason movement in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, Chevalier Ramsay of the court of exiled King James II, in particular, saw freemasonry as a continuation of the Templar tradition.

Boyle Abbey was founded in 1161 by the Cistercians on land donated by the MacDermots. The Cistercians were closely connected with the Knights Templar. St. Bernard, the order's leader in the late 12th century was the nephew of an original Knights Templar and a Knights Templar was a principal patron of the Cistercian order. It was at a church council led by St. Bernard that the Knights Templar were constituted an order of the church.

The rapid expansion of Cistercian Abbeys from Ireland to the Holy Land in the 12th century was accompanied by parallel expansion of the Knights Templar. In the early 1300's, there were many Knights Templar establishments in Ireland. The Knights Templar maintained a headquarters at Temple House, Sligo Town.

The Cistercians were the first order to train local lay people in important skills. These locals, called *conversi*, could learn advanced farming techniques, as well as, technical skills such as masonry. At the same time, the Knights Templar created an extensive trade, banking and shipping network encompassing Europe and the Holy Land. The Templar House in Sligo probably related to their considerable shipping activities.<sup>lx</sup>

Given the fact the MacDermots had a record of church construction dating from the 11th century, it would not be surprising if they learned the modern continental building techniques from the Cistercians of Boyle Abbey. Additionally, it may be from the Cistercians of Boyle or the Knights Templar that Cormac MacDermot acquired the interest in creating a trading community at Port na Cairge circa 1235. About this time, Tomas MacDermot was the Abbot of Boyle Abbey. He was later, Bishop of Elphin and died in 1265.

Also, there may have been a connection between the MacDermots Roe and the Cistercians and Templars in their role as *Biatach General*. This public function would have fit closely with the charitable activities carried out by the Cistercians with Templar assistance. It is interesting to note that Dermot Roe is said to have died at Boyle Abbey "in the Cistercian habit." in 1342.<sup>lxi</sup>

When the Templars were suppressed in France 1307-1314, there were many Templars in Ireland. Unlike the French Templars, the Irish Templars were dealt with leniently. It appears that they simply blended in with the population after the order's dissolution probably continuing many of their former activities.<sup>lxii</sup>

There is no evidence that any MacDermots became Knights Templar of the Middle Ages – certainly none that had descendants since the Templars were celibate. However, the Boyle Abbey/Cistercian/Templar relationship

indicates that the MacDermots, at least, had contact with the Templar network. Thus, it may be that the MacDermots through their involvement with the Cistercians/Templars and with medieval operative masonry were connected with the medieval origins of freemasonry.

## Chapter 6

# *The MacDermots Roe and George Washington*

The MacDermots Roe knew George Washington? It is incredible but true.

The story of the MacDermots Roe and their association with George Washington is set forth in a superb article entitled *Cornelius MacDermot Roe, Indentured Servant to George Washington* by genealogist Nathan Murphy published in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* of June, 2007. It is a landmark study in that connects an early Irish immigrant, not only, with George Washington, but also, with his family roots in Ireland.

In the summer of 1784, Cornelius MacDermot Roe embarked from the port of Cork, Ireland on a sailing ship to America. On or about August 2, 1784, Cornelius' ship (named either "Washington" or "Angelica") arrived at Alexandria, Virginia.

Cornelius, a skilled mason, was among a group of 300 people seeking employment in the United States. Many, like Cornelius, were skilled tradesman. Due to the recent war for independence with Britain, many American employers turned to Ireland as a source of skilled labor for their businesses and farms.

When Cornelius arrived, his contract of indenture was purchased by George Washington. Washington had until shortly before commanded the American Army in the War of Independence. Now that the war was over, Washington returned to his farm at Mount Vernon with many improvements planned.



As a builder and mason, Cornelius was to be a key component of Mount Vernon's operations. It is possible that his employment at Mount Vernon was arranged by Washington before Cornelius left Ireland. It may be due to Cornelius' high level of skill that he negotiated a contract of indenture for two years rather than the usual four.

It is evident that Cornelius' work as a mason pleased Washington. On the expiration of the two year indenture, Washington signed at one year contract with Cornelius dated August 1, 1786 for his services as a stone mason and bricklayer. Additionally, Cornelius agreed to provide instruction to others in the "Art and misteries of his Trade." For his services, Cornelius received 35 pounds, lodging, board, washing, some clothing and an "allowance of spirit(s)." Both Washington's and Cornelius' signatures appear on the memorandum of agreement.

With respect to the provision in the agreement with Washington that Cornelius would provide instruction to others in the "misteries" of masonry, it is interesting to note that Washington, himself, was a longstanding freemason. A speculative mason, i.e. not a professional builder, Washington may have had an interest in learning more of the operative side of freemasonry. In 1788, Washington was named Worshipful Master of the Alexandria, Virginia Lodge No. 22.

Alexandria Lodge No. 22, later renamed Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, was the successor freemason lodge to Alexandria Lodge No. 39. Lodge 39 had been warranted at Alexandria, Virginia by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania (Ancient) on February 3, 1783. Lodge 39 received a new warrant as No. 22 from the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

The Antient Grand Lodge, usually spelled "Antient" not "Ancient", was founded in 1751 England by Laurence Dermott (1720-1791), who appears to have been a MacDermot Roe. The Antient Grand Lodge eclipsed the establishment supported Grand Lodge of England ("Moderns") for many years and was popular in American colonies, like Pennsylvania, and in the British army regiments. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania today descends primarily from the Antient's tradition.

Washington's freemasonry is rooted in the Antient's tradition. On August 4, 1753, Washington, then 21, became a Master Mason at Masonic Lodge No. 4 in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Members of this lodge trace its origins to the 1730's when British soldiers quartered at Fredericksburg met, it is speculated, under a mobile charter from the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Both the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland followed the Antient's tradition.

As a soldier who served in the French and Indian War, Washington would have gravitated to this group of soldier freemasons. No long after Washington joined, in 1758 the lodge was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, British army regiment lodges generally embraced the Antient's tradition rather than the Modern's.

Cornelius worked on and supervised a number of projects at Mount Vernon. These projects included the manufacture and laying of bricks, laying flagstone for the piazza, draining swampland, and constructing a brick chimney. The brick chimney built by Cornelius is in what is now called the "Large Dining Room", the first room seen by visitors to Washington's mansion at Mount Vernon. Cornelius' work is the subject of Washington's correspondence regarding Mount Vernon. Washington, a student of masonry, himself, took a personal interest in Cornelius' work.

Cornelius' relationship with George Washington was such that Washington agreed to bring over two of Cornelius' brothers, Edward and Timothy. In December 1787, Washington's notes shows that he would pay Edward and Timothy 20 guineas (21 pounds) for their work as ditchers, laborers, and for assistance in brick laying.

About 1788, Cornelius and his brothers Edward and Timothy left Mount Vernon. Although there are no records for Edward and Timothy post-1788, Cornelius' subsequent career is well documented for he prospered as a builder in the newly formed District of Columbia. The District which was largely uninhabited was to be the new home of the United States government and the site of the new City of Washington.

As Cornelius' business grew, he accumulated cash to purchase in 1792 some of the new building lots in Washington, DC offered for sale by the District's commissioners. The three lots he purchased that year were followed by several others – all strategically located between the White House and the Capitol. Cornelius' own home was located one block from the White House.

The land records show that Cornelius was joined in Washington in the 1790's by other brothers from Ireland - Patrick, Owen and Bernard. They, also, bought Washington property. Eventually, the MacDermot Roe brothers and their cousin, Charles MacDermot Roe, gentleman, of Keadue owned all or part interest in about one dozen lots between the White House and the Capitol.

Nathan Murphy's research showed that six of the lots owned by the MacDermot Roe brothers and Charles were strategically located between the White House and the Capitol on or near Pennsylvania Avenue. Their locations west to east (from the White House toward the Capitol) were:

2 lots opposite the White House to the east on what is now called East Executive Drive, presently the location of the U.S. Treasury Department

1 lot a block further east from the White House on 15<sup>th</sup> Street between F and G Streets

1 lot on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets, on or near the site of the famous Willard Hotel and across the street from Pershing Park

1 lot on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue at 13<sup>th</sup> Street in an area now known as the Federal Triangle because of its cluster of U.S. government office buildings

1 lot 2 blocks north of Pennsylvania Avenue at the corner of Indiana Avenue and 6<sup>th</sup> Street, near the present day D.C. Courthouse.

Cornelius' success in America was apparently well known to his MacDermot Roe cousins in Ireland. Cousin Charles MacDermot Roe, born 1751 or 1752, of Keadue signed a Power of Attorney authorizing Cornelius to act as his agent in business dealings in Washington. Charles was the grandson of Henry Baccach and Mary Fitzgerald MacDermot Roe, patrons of O'Carolan, through their youngest son, also named Charles, died 1759. As noted above, Charles owned, at least in part, one of the Washington D.C. lots acquired by the family.

Cornelius' renown as a builder is illustrated by the fact that he was hired to lay the foundation for one wing of the United States Capitol. Unfortunately, he was unable to complete the work due to a contract dispute which resulted in litigation. The failure of the project did not impair Cornelius' standing with George Washington. Washington tried unsuccessfully to hire Cornelius in 1797 and 1798. A petition dated July 14, 1802 from Cornelius to President Thomas Jefferson appears in "The Thomas Jefferson Papers", Series 1, General Correspondence, Library of Congress.

Cornelius died in 1807 (will proved October 26, 1807) leaving a widow Mary and five children: Sarah, Mary, Nora, Margaret and Edward. Sarah married John Canna or Kenna 18 October 1814; Nora married Thomas

Castleman, 3 November 1814; Mary married Andrew Harper 15 November 1827. All were married in the District of Columbia.

The only son, Edward, was living in Charleston, South Carolina in September 1824 and in Mobile, Alabama on May 7, 1831. A letter dated May 7, 1831 from Edward to former President James Madison is included in the "James Madison Papers", Series 1, General Correspondence, Library of Congress. It is not known if Edward married or had offspring.

While the fates of brothers Edward and Timothy are not known, brothers Patrick, Owen and Bernard settled in Washington, D.C. However, it is not known if they had any offspring. The difficulty in tracing descendants is greatly complicated by the fact that most MacDermots Roe dropped the Roe soon after leaving Roscommon.

The family is greatly indebted to Nathan Murphy for his outstanding research on the family of Cornelius MacDermot Roe. Mr. Murphy's article represents an invaluable addition to the MacDermot Roe family history.

Source: *Cornelius MacDermot Roe, Indentured Servant to George Washington* by genealogist Nathan Murphy, published in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly of June, 2007 except information regarding freemasonry is from [History.com](http://www.history.com), [This Day in History](http://www.thisdayinhistory.com), [August 4, 1753](http://www.august41753.com), the websites of [Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, A.F. & A.M.](http://www.alexandria-washington-lodge.com) and [Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4](http://www.fredericksburg-lodge.com) and an article on the [Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania](http://www.grandlodgeofpennsylvania.com), Wikipedia, all accessed August 4, 2018.

## *Chapter 7*

# *The MacDermots Roe of Dublin, Emlagh, Louth and the line of Terence, the Lord Mayor*

Sir Dermot provides some very valuable details regarding the MacDermotts of Dublin, Louth and Emlagh, as well as, a distinct line including Terence, Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1689 but he did not yet have the information to place the families in context. *MacDermot of Moylurg*, pages 311-318, 327-331. Since the publication of his book, new information has come to light, including that in John McDermot's *Notes in the MacDermot Clan Journal*, June, 1998, pages 17-19, that provide an opportunity to put the details into a more coherent family structure.

What appears to emerge is a large group of MacDermots Roe that was very prominent in civic, religious and commercial affairs from as early as the 1500's to the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The branch, originally thought to stem from the MacDermots of the Rock, was composed of MacDermot Roe families that flourished in Dublin, the Emlagh region of County Roscommon, and County Louth.

Determining that these groups were MacDermot Roe was not easy. This was due to fact that the appellation was almost always dropped outside of Moylurg and was used inconsistently even in Roscommon apart the north of the county. Thus, the MacDermot Roe identity in many cases had to be inferred from the fact that an ancestor or other close relation was found with the Roe.

The MacDermot Roe connection of these families, as well the line of Terence, the Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1689, is inferred from the following:

1. In the *Memoirs of the Taaffe family* Clement MacDermot (flourished 1664) of Louth is referred to as Clement MacDermot Roe of County Roscommon, the father of Margaret who married James Taaffe of Peppardstown, County Louth. *Memoirs of the Taaffe family*, dated 1857, Vienna, translated from Latin, the unpaginated manuscript accessed November 16, 2018. There can be no question as to Clement's identity as the entry, also, identifies Margaret's sister, Bridget, as the wife of Dudley Garvey which can be seen on the family's pedigree. Similarly, Clement is referred to as Clement MacDermot Roe of County Roscommon in Burke's *Landed Gentry of Ireland* in connection with Margaret's marriage to James Taaffe. *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry of Ireland*, 1899, by Bernard Burke at page 435.

2. Edmund MacDermot of Emlagh whose daughter married Owen O'Connor of Corrasduna in the early 1700's is believed to be a son of Clement. See *MacDermot of Moylurg*, pages 329-330. I think it is likely that Edmund is the hitherto unidentified Edmund MacDermot Roe for whom Turlough Carolan composed a musical piece. See *Carolan, Life, Times and Music of an Irish Harper*, Donal O'Sullivan, 1958, Volume One, page 209.

3. Bryan MacDermot of Castletehen, Emlagh, also believed to be a son of Clement, is listed in his will of 1728 with the Roe.

4. Although Bryan's brother Michael of Castlemehen's 1732 will does not show the Roe, their nephew Thomas MacDermot Roe (flourished 1737) of Castelmehen named in Michael's will, is shown with Roe on many land records. Michael's will names several other brothers and another nephew.

5. Terence MacDermot, Senior, Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1689, and his son Terence, Junior were almost certainly, respectively, the grandfather and father of Ambrose MacDermot Roe, Bishop of Elphin, 1708-1717.

The fact that these families are MacDermot Roe is not particularly surprising when one considers that one-half of the MacDermot families shown on the 1617 grant to from King James I to Bryan MacDermot of Carrigg are identified as MacDermots Roe. *MacDermot of Moylurg* pages 458-464. If one is looking at a MacDermot family of Dublin, the odds are 50/50 or better that the family is MacDermot Roe. However, the family would have dropped the Roe when in Dublin and likely the Mac, as well.

The connection of the MacDermot Roe families in Louth, Usher's Quay, Dublin and Emlagh in Central Roscommon, to each other is starting to become evident. On the other hand, the line of Bishop Ambrose MacDermot Roe, died 1717 whose grandfather was probably Terence, Senior, Lord

Mayor of Dublin in 1689 is more difficult to connect to the group. This suggests that we may be dealing with two distinct branches of MacDermots Roe whose common ancestor is pretty far back.

First, here's a brief geography to help locate these disparate areas.

County Louth is on the east coast of Ireland north of Dublin and far from the MacDermot homeland in County Roscommon. It features a major port, Dundalk.

Usher's Quay is a dock on the River Liffey in Dublin. From here and other locations along the Liffey the MacDermots Roe, using the surname Dermott, conducted international trade operations in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and possibly earlier. Their business included the wine trade with France.

Emlagh, as used here, is an area located in central western County Roscommon, about 20 miles south of the MacDermot heartland in the vicinity of Boyle and 28 miles south of the MacDermot Roe base in Kilronan Civil Parish. The Emlagh area, narrowly defined, includes the civil parishes of Baslick, Ballintober, Drumatemple, Cloonygormican, Oran, Dunamon, and part of Kilbride and extends from Tulsk in the north to Roscommon Town in the south. More broadly, it might be said to, also, include the adjacent civil parishes of Ogulla, Roscommon, Fuerty and Athleague. It is called Emlagh because of the number of townlands in the area whose names include "Emlagh" meaning "marsh" and because the MacDermots Roe had one of their residences in the townland of Emlagh in Baslick Civil Parish.

It should be noted that the boundaries of civil parishes are often different from Roman Catholic parishes. This distinction is important as Roman Catholics would likely have identified more with their Catholic parish than with their civil parish in terms of their social relationships.

For example, Baslick Civil parish was part of the Roman Catholic Parish of Ogulla which, also, included Ogulla Civil Parish. Oran Civil Parish, Cloonygormican Civil Parish and the northern part of Fuerty Civil Parish were included in the much larger Oran Roman Catholic Parish. Ballintober Civil Parish and Drumatemple Civil Parish were included in the Roman Catholic parish of Ballintober and Ballymoe. On the south side of Emlagh, the rest of Fuerty Civil Parish and Athleague Civil Parish were included in Athleague Roman Catholic Parish. In the Emlagh area, only Kilbride Civil and Roman Catholic Parishes were roughly co-terminus.

In the *Recollections of Skeffington Gibbon from 1796 to 1829*, published in 1829, a commentary and genealogy of prominent Roscommon

families, Gibbon states that prior to the "last Revolution", presumably the 1688 Revolution against King James II, the MacDermots Roe possessed large estates in the vicinity of Oran Abbey and Ballymoe on the River Suck. Gibbon says that the MacDermots Roe had a residence at Dundermot, in Drumatemple Civil Parish. *supra*, page 74. Dundermott is just east of Ballymoe located about 4 ½ miles north east of Oran Abbey. And Dundermot is only about 2 miles southwest of Ballintober Castle, headquarters of the O'Conors Don, a family closely connected to the MacDermots Roe through marriage, politics and finance.

Among the many marriages between the two families, was the marriage about 1740 of Charles MacDermot Roe of Alderford and Ellen O'Connor, sister of Charles of Belanagare, the historian and Catholic civil rights leader. A close working relationship in politics and government must have existed since the 1300's when the MacDermots Roe became Biatachs General for Connaught under O'Connor Kings. Additionally, Terence MacDermot, Lord Mayor of Dublin lent money to the O'Conors of Ballintober in the 1600's and held, a 1691 document shows, a mortgage on O'Connor property there. In 1690, Terence was knighted Sir Terence of Ballintober by King James II for his support in fighting the rebellion of William of Orange.

1721, Owen McDermottroe erected a memorial to his parents Owen and Sara McDermottroe in the graveyard at Ballintober Old. *Ballintober Old Graveyard and the Grave Memorial of County Roscommon*, 2018, Mary B. Timoney at page 447. It appears that Owen, Senior may have occupied Dundermot in the late 1600's. An inscription in the graveyard for a later Owen McDermott (no Roe) died 1938 at age 84 seems to indicate that the earlier Owen's descendants stayed in the area. *Ibid*.

So the presence of the MacDermots Roe in Emlagh goes back to, at least, the 1600's. I think that it might go back much further if, for example, the family had a close and continuing relationship with Oran Abbey similar to its relationship to the Dominican Priory of the Holy Cross at Cloonshanville, near Frenchpark, Tibohine Civil Parish which MacDermot Roe founded in 1385. I believe the MacDermot Roe connection to abbeys related to the family's responsibility as Biatach for ensuring that food was grown, collected and distributed to the poor.

It is interesting to note that in Griffith's Valuation of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, Michael McDermott, who I think is a MacDermot Roe, held 78 acres in Ballydooley Townland, Oran Civil Parish, the location of Oran Abbey. Elsewhere in Oran was Patrick McDermott with 34 acres in Emlaghmore and Patrick, perhaps the same person, with 3 acres in Island Lower.



The line of Terence, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, is very difficult to trace in Emlagh. Apart from the reference to Ambrose MacDermot Roe, Bishop of Elphin and the grave inscription of Owen in Ballintober Old, this branch of the MacDermots Roe is not found with the appellation Roe on any document.

Nonetheless, Sir Dermot MacDermot believed that Terence was the ancestor of the MacDermots of Ballyglass in Emlagh through his son Andrew. Further, several well to do MacDermots of Emlagh appear to be descendants of either Andrew or an unnamed brother of Terence. It seems possible that Owen McDermottroe, flourished 1600's, buried at Ballintober Old, is one of them.

These Ballyglass descendants include brothers Charles of Ballyglass, died 1725, and Terence of Ballyglass and Dublin, flourished 1749. Terence, a successful cooper, was quite wealthy as he was shown in the 1749 Elphin Census with 8 servants. Like other prosperous MacDermots Roe descendants in Emlagh, he made his money in business in Dublin but regarded Emlagh in Roscommon as home.

Other 18<sup>th</sup> century possible descendants of the branch of Terence, Lord Mayor appear to include James and Andrew of Ballymacurley, Owen of Ballyglass, John of Highlake, James of Ballinvilla. Additionally, buried at Ballintober Old Graveyard is Michael McDermott, died January 20, 1800, age 65, with wife Catherine, died April 25, apparently the same year. *Timoney, supra* at page 446. By location, it seems likely that Michael is a MacDermot Roe although his relation to Owen is not clear.

The importance of the name Owen in the line interred at Ballintober Old suggests that Owen McDermott of Springfield, just west of Ballymoe in Galway, may be a member of this line. Owen, who is said by Sir Dermot to have been a member of the Emlagh group, was an attorney who acquired extensive properties at Springfield through his marriage in 1791 to Honora, daughter of William Kelly of Springfield. *MacDermot of Moylurg*, at page 316.

The ancestry of Terence, Senior is not known. However, Walter/Dualtach Dermott who flourished in Dublin in the 1600's is an interesting possibility. Born about 1548, Walter at age 90 is mentioned in a 1638 record in a petition regarding land in St. Andrews Parish, near Trinity College, that he had acquired from Mrs. Ussher. He is likely the Walter Dermott that was Churchwarden of St. Werburghs in 1615. See *MacDermot of Moylurg*, at page 312.

There is only one Dualtach on the MacDermot Roe pedigree and by dates he could be the Walter/Dualtach of active in Dublin in the late 1500's

and early 1600's. On the pedigree, Daltach is the father of Conor of Camagh, whose grant of extensive lands in Kilronan and the right to hold a market at Kilmactranny was confirmed by King James I in 1607. Since no siblings are shown for many generations on the pedigree, it is possible that Terence's father was a younger brother of Conor and that his grandfather was Daltach.

To acquire clear title to numerous Kilronan properties, obtain the 1607 royal grant as a representative of the MacDermots Roe, successfully defend his property from the Cootes' subsequent legal challenge and finance the construction of ironworks, Conor must have had, both, strong financial resources and connections with the Stuarts. The helpful Stuart connection continued as Conor's successor, his grandson Henry Baccach, received from King Charles II a Decree of Innocence confirming his land ownership. Walter/Daltach of Dublin had money and Terence, Senior had, both, money and Stuart connections as King James II knighted Terence in 1691.

Additionally, it is interesting to note that the MacDermots Roe acquired their Dublin business property on the Liffey waterfront from the Ushers with whom Walter/Daltach did business. So this theory connecting Walter/Daltach of Dublin to Daltach of the pedigree and thence to Terence, Senior is plausible.

However, since the Terence branch is difficult to flesh out even in a tentative pedigree, we will focus on Clement MacDermot Roe's better understood branch. As we shall see, this branch was based, not only, in Dublin and the home turf of Emlagh, Roscommon, but also, in Louth.

In offering a tentative outline for the Emlagh MacDermots Roe, I am keenly aware of the limited data available. Since no decent census is available for County Roscommon until 1749, MacDermots Roe are identified from deeds, will transcripts and occasional references in church records. It is very likely that many people are omitted.

For example, there are over 20 MacDermots listed in the Emlagh the 1749 Elphin Census. It is possible that all descend from Clement MacDermot Roe who had a host of children or from Terence's line. However, it is possible that some descended from siblings or cousins of Clement or Terence who remained in Emlagh throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> century despite the upheavals of rebellion and civil war. So I offer this draft pedigree, not in expectation that it is complete, but in order to make sense of the available information.

An important pedigree in understanding the family connections that embrace these disparate locations appears on page 315 of *MacDermot of*

*Moylurg*. The first member of the family to reside in Louth, shown in the 4<sup>th</sup> line, was Eamonn/Edmond who married Margaret, a daughter of Patrick Bellew of Kilcurley, County Louth. The Bellews were, also, a very successful commercial family especially in flour milling.

This marriage led to the establishment of the Louth branch of the MacDermot Roe family which flourished in the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> century as McDermott or Dermott. The leader of the Louth contingent was Eamonn/Edmund's youngest son, Clement, who married twice and had a tremendous number of children. Based upon the dates of his brothers in the Louth pedigree in *MacDermot of Moylurg*, I would estimate that Clement was born circa 1630-1640.

Clement's sons included, by his second marriage to Margaret Ellis, daughter of Patrick of Dundalk, Edmund who Sir Dermot believed was the Edmund of Emlagh whose daughter Catherine married Owen O'Connor of Corrasduna, a descendant the O'Conors of Ballintober Castle. See, also, [\*The O'Conors of Connaught\*](#), Charles Owen O'Connor Don and John O'Donovan (1891) at page 331. It is possible that Patrick Ellis of Dundalk, Margaret's father, may have had roots in Emlagh, County Roscommon like Clement. In the Elphin Census of 1749, Edmond and Burne Ellis are listed in Fuerty Civil Parish on the south edge of Emlagh.

As noted earlier, Clement's daughter Margaret, from his first marriage to Joan Blyke, daughter of Christopher Blyke of Louth, married James Taaffe of Peppardstown, County Louth. Their children included a John who had issue but that issue is not identified in Burke's *Irish Family Records*.

The Taaffes had been prominent in Louth for centuries, but they also had a presence in the Emlagh area of County Roscommon from the late 1600's. John, the grandson of James Taaffe's older brother Peter, received a grant in May 1, 1678 to County Roscommon lands in Rathmoyle, Baslick Civil Parish and Carrowstown, an unidentified townland. A John Taaffe is found in Kilbride Civil Parish in the Elphin Census of 1749 - perhaps a descendant.

As mentioned, *infra*, Bryan of Castletehen, Baslick Civil Parish and Michael of Castlemehen, Kilbride Civil Parish died, respectively, in 1728 and 1732 appear to be Edmund's brothers. In his will, Michael of Castlemehen, also, names brothers Conor, Patrick and Peter, presumably, also, children of Clement's second marriage, and nephews James and Thomas. Since these relations were named in Michael's will, it appears that they were alive when Michael died. Nephews James and Thomas appear in the 1749 Elphin Census, but the brothers do not perhaps because they had passed on.

Sir Dermot believed that Edmund and his brothers were the first generation of their family to live in Emlagh. However, he was not aware that the MacDermots Roe family had large estates in Emlagh around Dundermott, Drumatemple Civil Parish where they had a residence and around Oran Abbey, Oran Civil Parish prior to the 1688 Revolution. *The Recollections of Skeffington Gibbon, from 1796 to the Present Year 1829* at page 74. Thus, it is likely that Edmond and his brothers were continuing a longstanding MacDermot Roe presence in Emlagh which may have been interrupted or, at least, reduced for their support of the James II.

The MacDermot Roe presence in Emlagh could even date before 1611 since in that year Cormac MacDermot Roe was established even further south in Athleague per the *14<sup>th</sup> Report of the Keepers of the Record*. This apparently was a list of persons affirming their loyalty to the English. It is not clear if the name Athleague, as used here, refers to the parish or the town. The town of Athleague is located about 5 miles south of Roscommon Town. Athleague may, also, denote the government office nearest to Cormac where he could appear to affirm his loyalty.

Ironically, the MacDermot Roe seat at Dundermott was occupied by Owen O'Connor's descendants in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Patrick O'Connor, the son of Owen's second son Thomas, was of Dundermott. Patrick was J.P. of County Roscommon in 1854 was succeeded by his son Nicholas and then his grandsons Patrick who died without issue and Nicholas who succeeded his brother.

Clement's daughter Bridget married Dudley Garvey. The Garveys, a mercantile Louth family, became successful in the wine trade in Rouen, France. While many Irish left for France after the surrender at Limerick in 1691, most returned to Ireland when the political situation eased in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Rouen Garveys, however, settled permanently in France and were ennobled later in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The Garvey connection appears to be very important to the business success of the Dermotts/MacDermots Roe of Dublin in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. There was a longstanding trade link between Rouen and Dublin. Additionally, the Dermotts extensive international trade included the importation of wine from France. The family enterprise flourished at Usher's Quay, Dublin under Thomas McEdmond's son Christopher, Christopher's, son, Anthony, Sr., and Anthony Senior's sons Owen and Anthony

It is not surprising that the Dermotts of Usher's Quay did not use the appellation Roe since the Roe was almost always dropped outside of Roscommon. In fact, it was usually dropped outside of northern Roscommon

and the bordering area of Sligo. In Emlagh, for example, MacDermots Roe are more often than not referred to without the appellation. In pre-1800 Dublin, they often dispensed with the Mac, as well.

Although Dermott believes that this Thomas, son of Edmond of Kilcurley, per the pedigree in *MacDermot of Moylurg*, page 315, is the first member of the Louth line to be established in Dublin, I think this may not be the case. My theory is that Edmund of Kilcurley, father of Thomas and Clement was, also, the Edmund Dermott who was a business leader in Dublin in the late 1500's.

While Patrick Bath, perhaps Thomas' father-in-law, was Master of the Merchant Taylors Guild in Dublin 1631-1632, Edmond Dermott, was Master of the Merchant Taylors Guild in Dublin 1575-1576. *Ibid*, page 312. Timothy MacDermot and Christopher McDermott were wardens of this guild in 1734/5 and 1789/90, respectively, and may be descendants of Christopher Dermott of Ushers Quay. *Ibid*, page 318. Given the small population of Dublin of the time, it seems very likely that the Baths and Dermotts were well acquainted as they were leaders in the same business.

So, who was the Eamonn/Edmund who married Margaret Bellew of Kilcurley, Louth and appears to be the ancestor of the MacDermots Roe of Louth, Usher's Quay Dublin and Emlagh?

The Louth pedigree on page 315 of *MacDermot of Moylurg* shows Eamonn's branch descending from the MacDermots of the Rock, specifically Rory, King of Moylurg 1489-1568. However, Sir Dermot states that the pedigree upon which this connection is made is mistaken. Not only did Rory not have a son named Eamonn, but also, the Louth pedigree is off by a generation. *Ibid*, at page 313. From reference to other known dates, we can estimate Eamonn/Edmond birth at about 1580-1590.

However, if one looks at the MacDermot Roe pedigree, one finds names and dates that match Eamonn's father and grandfather as shown on the Louth pedigree. They are Rory, fl. 1593 and his father Eamonn, k. 1590. *Ibid*, at 294. If this connection is right, then Rory fl. 1593 and Eamonn, k. 1590 would be, respectively the father and grandfather of Eamonn who married Margaret Bath and settled in Louth.

Additionally, Eamonn, the grandfather Eamonn, by dates, could well be Edmond Dermott, Master of the Taylor's Guild in Dublin 1575-1576. This is a surmise. But, it makes sense, again, given the business connection of the families and the small size of the Dublin at the time. If this surmise is correct, Edmond would be a MacDermot Roe too.

Another interesting connection between the Louth pedigree and the MacDermots Roe of Emlagh may be the Cormac, the brother of Rory, both shown on line three of the pedigree. This Cormac might be the Cormac shown in Athleague in 1611 on a list of those affirming loyalty to the English. Athleague is located at an important crossing of the River Suck south of Emlagh. Due to its strategic location, the MacDermots Roe, as traders and as Biatach, might have established a base there in the 1500's or even earlier as they did upriver at Dundermott near another important Suck River crossing point at Ballymoe.

So the theory that emerges is that the MacDermots Roe of Emlagh descend from two distinct branches shown on the MacDermot Roe pedigree. - the Terence, Lord Mayor, line coming down from Dualtach/Walter and the Clement, Louth/Dublin line coming down from his cousin Eamon/Edmund, killed 1590. Since most of the scant data on the Emlagh families, relates to Clement's line, I have attempted to incorporate the information into a draft outline of descent for his line. The outline below is certainly not the last word on the subject, but, at least, it gives some coherence to what is known and will be helpful in further research.

#### *Generation 1 - Edmond, Master of the Taylor's Guild, Dublin 1575-1576*

We don't know details of Edmond's life, but we can get some idea about him from his role as a leader of the Taylor's Guild. He was killed in 1590 if he is the Rory on the MacDermot Roe pedigree mentioned above.

Tailors of this period appear to have been essentially dealers in cloth. Whether they made clothes themselves or had others do it is not clear, but the buying/selling/trading for materials seems to be central.

An entry recorded in *Calendar of ancient records of Dublin, in the possession of the municipal corporation of that city*, John T. Gilbert, 1891 (Volume 2) reads as follows:

In a petition addressed by the gild of merchants to the municipal council in 1584, it stated that the tailors were then accustomed to "traffic to London several times by the year," ... "Broadcloths, Silks. kerseys, velvets and silks are also, about the same period, mentioned as on sale in Dublin."

This indicates that Edmond fl. 1575 likely traveled on a regular basis to London. So it is not surprising to find his descendants later engaged in international trade at Usher's Quay.

Since the population of Dublin circa 1600 was only about 5,000 people, we can infer the following:

1. That all the business leaders, Baths, Bellews, etc. knew each other quite well. James Bellew was Lord Mayor of Dublin 1572-3, and the Baths had been established in Dublin for some time as John Bathe was Lord Mayor 1350-1351.

2. That a Dublin businessman, such as Edmond, may have spent a substantial part of the year in his home territory particularly if he obtained the wool for his broadcloth from sheep raised in Roscommon.

It is interesting to note that in the Middle Ages, Ardcarn, Roscommon located about 5 miles west of Boyle at the north end of the MacDermot's rich grazing territory, was the leading sheep and wool market in Connacht. Arthur Young described the area, known as the Plains of Boyle, as the biggest sheep walk he had ever seen. *A Tour in Ireland, with general observations on the present state of that kingdom in 1776-78.*

Additionally, Roscommon Town has been recognized as a center for the wool trade, an age-old tradition that continues to the present time in the form of annual fairs and gatherings where wool and livestock are judged, traded and sold. Roscommon Town is at the southern end of Emlagh.

*Generation 2* - Rory flourished 1593, Eamonn's son. No details. His date is taken from the MacDermot Roe pedigree.

*Generation 3* - Eamonn na machaire, born circa 1600.

Eamonn, anglicized Edmond, married Margaret, daughter of Patrick Bellew of Kilcurley, County Louth. He relocated to Louth in the early 1600's as the result of the marriage. However, it is possible that he continued to do business in Dublin and have property in Roscommon. Thus, the family's establishment of an additional base in Louth was not the result of a forced migration following the 1688 Revolution. However, after 1688 they may have been dispossessed of much of their property in the Dundermott and Oran Abbey area of Roscommon.

The Bellews, a family of French origin that accompanied William of Normandy to England, were established at Bellewstown, County Meath by the 1300's and, later, in Dublin City where in 1445 Phillip Bellew was bailiff

and in James Bellew was later Mayor, 1572-73. They were fairly numerous in County Louth by the mid-1600's. *Article on the Bellew family*, accessed on November 5, 2018 at <http://www.araltas.com/features/bellew/>.

The Bellews, like the MacDermots Roe, were Catholic and Jacobite. Sir John Bellew, who was on the Supreme Council of the Confederate Catholics, was specially exempted from pardon in 1652. Three Bellew landowners were transplanted to County Galway under the Cromwellian regime in the mid-1600's where the family established a considerable presence at Mount Bellew. *Ibid*. Mount Bellew is about 15 miles south of the MacDermot Roe estate of Dundermott in Emlagh near the River Suck.

#### *Generation 4 - Clement of Louth, born about 1630-1640*

Since Clement, youngest son of Eamonn na machaire, was married twice and had a great many children only some of whom appear on the pedigree, the births of his children could have spread over many years in late 1600's. Clement was married, first, to Joan, daughter of Christopher Blyke of County Louth and, second, to Margaret, daughter of Patrick Ellis of Dundalk.

Clement is apparently the Clement Dermody listed in Castletown Bellew Townland, Castletown Bellew Parish, County Louth in the 1664 Hearth Money Rolls. Others listed in the townland include Marque, Nicholas and Walter Bellew and Thomas Taaffe. As noted above, Clement is referred to as Clement MacDermot Roe of County Roscommon in the Taaffe entry in *Burke's Landed Gentry of Ireland*, as well as, in the *Memoirs of the Taaffe Family* dated 1857.

Clement appears to have remained in County Louth after marrying. However, his numerous children went abroad, to Dublin, and to Emlagh, Roscommon. The surname underwent several changes partly depending on locale. In Dublin, the family used Dermott in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. However, in Roscommon, it appears as McDermott and McDermott Roe.

*Generation 5 - Bryan, died 1727 of Castletehen, Michael, died 1732 of Castlemehen and his brothers Conor, Patrick, Peter and Edmund of Emlagh, flourished about 1720, believed to be children of Clement*



Bryan and Edmond appear on the pedigree as sons of Clement. The others do not, but they appear to be siblings of the two. Sir Dermot believed that Edmund of Emlagh may be among the sons of Clement. *MacDermot of Moylurg*, page 329.

Bryan, who is shown in his will with the Roe but Michael is not. However, we can conclude that Michael was Bryan's brother and hence a MacDermot Roe since Michael's will names James and Thomas as nephews. James was Bryan's son. Thomas, who appears often with the Roe on land records, took over Castlemehen from Michael. As discussed above, Sir Dermot believes that Edmond of Emlagh was the brother of Michael and, hence, the brother of Bryan and that he was, also, the father of Thomas. *MacDermot of Moylurg*, page 329

Bryan farmed 368 acres at Castletehen. Castletehen is located near Castleplunket towards the north end of the Emlagh area. He was married first to Elizabeth (perhaps a Kelly) and second to Margaret Winston. We know of a daughter Cisley by Elizabeth and a son James and daughters Mary and Margaret by second wife Margaret. It may be that he had other children. Bryan was buried at Ballintober.

As Dermot MacDermot relates in *MacDermot of Moylurg*, the Louth branch was strongly Jacobite with many of Clement's sons serving in the military for King James II. Among them were Bryan, an officer in the Irish Jacobite army and Edmund who appears to have been a naval officer. Attainted for treason, they both fled Ireland.

Bryan served in the French army. However, he was discharged along with many other Irish officers during France's military reforms at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

In *Old Irish Links with France*, Richard Hayes quotes from an appeal by Bryan to King James III, in exile in France:

"Brian MacDermot, an Irish merchant at Rouen, has served the late King (James II) during the Irish wars as a foot-captain and that after the capitulation of Limerick (1691) he left his property and country to follow his said Majesty to France and served there as an officer the whole of the last wars only quitting the service when the troops reformed at the Peace of Rhyswick (1697); after which he was obliged to take to trade to maintain himself." Quoted in *MacDermot of Moylurg*, page 314,

Later Hayes refers to the firm of Dermott and Paine in the Rue de Savonierre, Rouen, 1702. Dermott is described as a former officer in the

French army who lost his position as the result of reforms. Dermott and Paine was a very successful international trading firm and its activities are described by Pierre Dardel, in his book *Commerce, industrie et navigation à Rouen et au Havre au XVIIIème siècle*, published in 1966 by the Société libre d'émulation de la Seine-maritime, at page 153

If our assumption that Bryan of Emlagh is the son of Clement is correct then, it would appear that Bryan, like the Garveys prospered in business in Rouen. However, unlike the Garveys, Bryan chose to use his profits to buy an estate at Castletehen in the Emlagh area of Roscommon where he apparently retired.

Interestingly, there is a Michael McDermott, merchant shown at Rue de Jacobins, St. Sauveur Parish Rouen, on November 11, 1724. *Collectanea Hibernica*, No. 34-35, 1992-1993. This may be Bryan's brother Michael who similarly used his business profits to purchase the property at Castlemehen, near Bryan.

In his will proved 1732, Michael of Castlemehen names brothers Conor, Patrick and Peter and nephews James and Thomas. As we discussed, Michael was the brother of Bryan and probably Edmond. I assume Edmond and Bryan are not named in the will as having pre-deceased Michael.

According to Sir Dermot, Edmund of Emlagh's daughter Catherine, married Owen O'Connor, died 1766, of Corrasduna around 1720. Their eldest daughter Catherine married Hugh O'Connor, 4<sup>th</sup> son of Denis O'Connor. Denis, born 1674, was of Belanagare. Sir Dermot places Edmund's birth as before 1680 based on the date of the marriage.

*Generation 6* - Thomas of Castlemehen, born circa 1690-1700, died Nov. 1765, James of Castletehen, died 1744, Bernard flourished 1748, Bryan flourished 1744, possibly Patrick and Conor of Cloonygormican flourished 1749

Sir Dermot surmised that Thomas McDermott Roe of Castlemehen, Kilbride Civil Parish was the son of Edmund born before 1680. This seems a reasonable assumption since Thomas named his eldest son Edmund. Castlemehen is located about 4 miles north of Roscommon Town and is the east end of the Emlagh area.

In a 1721 agreement Thomas is living in Cloonycolgan, Oran Civil Parish. Cloonycolgan is about half way between Roscommon Town and Ballintober. In 1732, Thomas' uncle Michael McDermot Roe of Castlemehen

died and left property to him. In a 1732 lease, Thomas is living at Castlemehen. The 1749 Elphin Census shows Thomas at Castlemehen with 2 children over 14 and 11 servants. Although Thomas does not appear with the Roe in the Census, the Roe is shown in his leases.

Although Thomas had an estate and numerous other properties in Roscommon, leases sometime show him residing in Dublin. He probably spent significant time in Dublin every year on business in order to generate the money to support his country estate. This may be a clue as to why other McDermotts Roe known to have lived in Emlagh during the Elphin Census do not appear in the Census. It may be that they had other residences in Dublin.

In addition to his property at Castlemehen and Cloonycolgan, Thomas leased land at Cloonymony, Civil Parish not known and Dunamon, Dunamon Civil Parish. Although he died at Capel Street, Dublin, Thomas was buried in County Roscommon in accordance with his will. His obituary said that he maintained a pack of foxhounds for 50 years. The fact that Thomas died in Dublin but wished to be buried in Roscommon shows that the Emlagh MacDermots had their purse in Dublin but their heart in Emlagh.

James of Castletehen, died 1744, was the son of Bryan of Castletehen. James only names sisters in his will. It would appear he had no issue. On the other hand, his children may have been provided for outside of the will.

Thomas McDermot Roe of Castlmehen and Bernard and Edmund MacDermot Roe of Emlagh are listed among those in the Diocese of Elphin whose views were sought in a "postulation" in 1748 on the selection of the next bishop of Elphin. Other prominent families whose views were sought included the O'Conors, Plunketts, Flynns and Irwins. Edmund was probably the son of Thomas who died in 1778.

Bernard MacDermot Roe of the 1748 Elphin postulation may be the Father Bernard MacDermot Roe, Parish Priest of Athleague (5 miles southwest of Roscommon Town) in 1756 and Canon of Kilbarry (4 miles south of Roosky on the Shannon River) in 1786. It is possible that the postulation was sent to his family home in Emlagh. In 1748, the Roman Catholic Church was still suppressed.

A Bryan appears as a witness on James' McBryan's 1744 will. In a 1737 lease of lands at Canbo by James McDermott of Ballinvilla, Bryan is again a witness where he is said to be of Cloonyquin, Fuerty Civil Parish (2 m. W. of Roscommon T.) Perhaps this Bryan is a son of Bryan, died 1728. Again, wills of this period sometime seem to omit children. Finally, there is a

1785 lease of lands at Ballinlough, Kiltullough Civil Parish to Bryan McDermott and his two sons. This could be Bryan flourished 1737 as an elderly man or his son.

There are 19 McDermotts without the Roe (including Thomas of Castlemehen) listed in the 1749 Elphin Census in Emlagh. The count rises if one includes neighboring parishes such as Fuerty and Roscommon. It is possible that most are MacDermots Roe and that they include brothers of Michael, died 1732 or their sons. However, many may be descendants of a MacDermot Roe other than Clement.

*Generation 7* - Edmund McThomas died 1778, Thomas McThomas flourished 1783, born circa 1730

In a 1764 deed concerning his marriage to Ellen Kelly, Edmund is described as the eldest son of Thomas of Castlemehen, born circa 1690-1700. Edmund was "of Emlagh" by 1759. That year he leased land in Emlaghroy, Cloonycolgan, and Cloonymony, north of Dunamon, near the Suck River.

The Taylor and Skinner Map of 1779-1783 shows a Thomas of Emlaghiroyen, Dunamon Civil Parish in possession of Cloonycolgan. In the Crofton Rentals (1778), a Thomas, perhaps the same, is shown with a farm of 253 acres at Carnkit, Baslick Civil Parish. Thomas, flourished 1778, is likely another son of Thomas, born circa 1690-1700.

It is interesting to note that in the Taylor Skinner Map and Crofton Rentals, Thomas is listed without the appellation Roe. It appears that sometime in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, this branch of the MacDermots Roe discontinued using the appellation for official documents. This, of course, makes the line more difficult to trace.

Among the MacDermots Roe of Emlagh was a priest, Father Michael MacDermot Roe, parish priest of Oran in 1756. Oran is located about 4 miles south of Castletehen and 4 miles west of Castlemehen. It is not known how this Michael is related, but he may have been a son or nephew of Michael, died 1732, of Castlemehen.

On the other hand, Father Michael of Oran could be the Father Michael appearing on the Louth pedigree in *MacDermot of Moylurg*, page 315 who is the grandson of Thomas, Clement's older brother and son of Christopher Dermott of Usher's Quay. Father Michael, son of Christopher, born about

1712 and died in 1791, would be the right age to have been parish priest of Oran in 1756.

Sir Dermot found that Father Michael, son of Christopher, was ordained at Malines in 1738, studied in Louvain and returned to Ireland in 1748. In 1756, this Father Michael was listed at the Dominican community in Dublin and Sir Dermot believes he spent the rest of his career in Dublin. *Ibid* at 318. However, the Dominicans, including Bishop Ambrose MacDermot Roe of Elphin, were very active in the area and it is possible that Father Michael was assigned to Oran while being listed elsewhere.

The name Michael continued to be important in the Emlagh MacDermots Roe with Michael appearing in 4 townlands in the area (including Castleplunket) in Griffiths.

*Generation 8* - Colonel Thomas (1751-1801) and Owen, Esq. (circa 1760-1825)

In his will Edmund, died 1778, son of Thomas of Castlemehen, names Owen, born 1760, as his son. Sir Dermot believes that Colonel Thomas, born 1751, may have been, also, a son of Edmund McThomas, born circa 1720 by a different mother. On the other hand, it is possible that Colonel Thomas might be the son of a different as yet unidentified son of Thomas of Castlemehen. In any event, they both appear to be grandchildren of Thomas of Castlemehen.

Colonel Thomas, who was an officer in the Athleague Rangers had a colorful career including an imprisonment in Paris during the French Revolution. His life is discussed in detail in the chapter entitled *MacDermots Roe and the French Revolution, infra*.

Edmund's son Owen may be the Dublin lawyer who in 1793 was Secretary of the United Irishmen. This group evolved from the more conservative Catholic Association founded by Charles O'Connor of Belanagare (1710-1791) whose sister Eleanor married Charles MacDermot Roe of Alderford, died 1759. On the other hand, as mentioned above, there is another line Emlagh Owens buried in Ballintober Old Graveyard.

Owen, the lawyer, married Honora Kelly of Springfield in 1791. She was the daughter of William Kelly of Springfield where the couple settled. They became the ancestors of the McDermotts of Springfield. Springfield is located 3 miles west of Ballymoe, not far from the Castlemehen/Castletehen area. *MacDermot of Moylurg*, pages 325-6.

Generation 9 - Lieutenant Patrick (flourished 1797, 1806) and Michael/Miceal MacDiermada Ruad (flourished 1822)

While Lieutenant Patrick relationship to Generation 8 is not clear, it seems he was likely an Emlagh MacDermot Roe and closely related to Colonel Thomas. He was not part of the Alderford branch as its pedigree in the 18<sup>th</sup> century was preserved and no Patrick appears. Further, the Emlagh MacDermots Roe were only other branch of the MacDermots Roe that would have had the connections to obtain a much sought after Ensign's commission for Patrick in Dillion's Regiment (UK).

Although Patrick's military career was not eventful, it provides interesting genealogical information and historical context. Details of his career and background historical information are provided in Appendix B.

Another likely MacDermot Roe of Emlagh of this generation is Michael/Miceal MacDiermada Ruad of Ballynahegligh, Cloonygormican Civil Parish. Again, we cannot place him within a pedigree but the name Michael and the location strongly suggest he is of the Emlagh MacDermots Roe.

Michael is referred to in *Ms. Ossianic & Religious Poetry in Irish* 1820-1856, with the date 1822. Ballynahegligh townland is located about 2 miles southeast of Castleplunket. This is the latest record of a MacDermot with the Roe attached who lived in Emlagh.

It appears that in the 19<sup>th</sup> century some of the McDermotts Roe of Emlagh may have relocated from Emlagh to Dublin or elsewhere, like Owen of Springfield. Judging from the large numbers of McDermotts appearing in Griffith's in or near the townlands associated with the McDermotts Roe of Emlagh, it would seem that many remained in Emlagh. However, all dropped the appellation Roe, at least in official records, by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

I find it interesting to speculate on how a branch of the MacDermots Roe originating in the Boyle area of northern County Roscommon became so successful in commerce and in public service, far from there - in Dublin, Louth and Emlagh. Consider the following analysis.

Let's start by looking at the geography. Moylurg which was acquired by the Clan's ancestor Mulrooney Mor, son of Tadhg, King of Connacht in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, occupies a very important location at the northern end of the Shannon River. Trade going further north to Sligo Town would have to proceed from Loch Ce, the MacDermot controlled lake constituting the

effective northernmost extension of the Shannon, and through the MacDermot controlled pass in the Curlews Mountain.

Recognizing Loch Ce's critical importance, the MacDermots established their fortress headquarters, known as Cairge, the "Rock", in the lake by the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It appears that a prior headquarters may have been near the shore of Loch Ce at Longphort. *MacDermot of Moylurg*, pages 54-56.

With control of an important trade route, it is not surprising that the MacDermots would eventually become involved in various aspects of trade themselves. In 1231, Conor MacDermot, King of Moylurg, 1218-1244, grandfather of Dermot Roe (later Dermot Dall), ancestor of the MacDermots Roe, began to establish a market place at Port-na-cairige at a harbor on the shore opposite the Rock.

In addition to maintaining a market place at Port-na-cairige, the MacDermots kept troops and horses there. The Chief also maintained a residence there. Thus, Port-na-cairige on a day to day basis may have been more important as a commercial, military and administrative center than the Rock which was located on an island of only ½ acre. Additionally, from Port-na-cairige the MacDermot leader had easier access to the rich grazing plains of Moylurg to the south.

While the easy income came from grazing cattle and sheep on the plains of Boyle to the south, opportunities abounded in trade, including those relating to wool. These would include, not only, profits from the purchase and sale of goods, but also, income that can be obtained from transporting and storing goods, as well as, fees from merchants taking advantage of your market place. Recall that one of the valuable rights granted by King James I to Conor MacDermot Roe of Camagh, later Alderford, in 1607 was the right to income from a market fair in his territory.

Now, as to why the MacDermots Roe would seem to have been the group to excel in the early commercial activities, one needs to consider their position as Biatach General of Connaught. This area comprised not only, County Roscommon, but also, Counties Galway, Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim in the West of Ireland.

As Biatach General, the MacDermot Roe chief was responsible for the welfare of the poor and homeless and for the provision of food and shelter to travelers. Additionally, it appears that the Biatach General would act something like a Quartermaster General in the military sphere. He would have been the officer in charge of obtaining food for the troops, fodder for the horses and with all the logistical challenges that go with that duty.

We know that the MacDermots Roe were the Biatachs General no later than Cormac MacDermot Roe killed in a battle in 1365. He was the great grandson of Dermot Roe/Dall and the son of Dermot Roe, flourished 1320 after whom the surname is said to have been adopted. A deeply religious man, Dermot Roe retired to Boyle Abbey adopting the Cistercian habit. He was buried at the Abbey.

Dermot Roe was ineligible to be elected MacDermot Chieftain since no one in his line had been chief as recently as a great-grandfather as required under the law of tanistry. However, the fact that his descendants adopted Dermot Roe as their surname suggests that he was a person of tremendous character and influence.

Dermot Roe's importance may have been related to a number of qualities - fighting prowess, organizing ability, spiritual strength, generosity and success in the commercial sphere. The last would have provided him with financial muscle that was perhaps more important than a claim to the chieftaincy under tanistry. I am guessing that his preeminence in commerce and charity led him to be chosen by the King of Connaught to be Biatach General with the title passing down with his family in succeeding generations.

The skills involved in serving as Biatach General would be very closely related to running a successful business. Food would have to be acquired from many different sources, stored and distributed. Good communications would have to be maintained with leading farmers, as well as, institutions like monasteries that cared for the poor and sheltered travelers. In addition, the logistics of transporting perishable goods would have been complicated requiring a tight land and water distribution system using carriers the Biatach could trust. In time of war, this invaluable system would be used to support the army.

Given this background, I can see that some descendants of Dermot Roe would eventually focus on commerce as their principal occupation. This could be as merchants or as specialists in the transshipment of goods. The authors own MacDermot Roe line followed the latter line of work.

As Dublin became, with English influence, a growing international port, opportunities for the export of the products of Moylurg abroad beckoned. This would have seemed especially attractive as regards the wool produced by the abundant sheep on the plains of Boyle.



At some point, those MacDermots Roe dealing in wool outgrew the medieval wool market in Ardcarne. So they ventured to Dublin where, at least for part of the year, they engaged in the export of locally produced products to foreign markets.

It is my supposition that Edmond MacDermot, the Master of the Merchant Taylor's Guild 1575-1576 was among them. He would have shipped high quality wool from Roscommon to Dublin for use in the manufacture either in Ireland or abroad of close woven wool broadcloth. Edmond may have been the first in the family to establish a business connection in Dublin. On the other hand, he may have been continuing a business begun their generations before.

I strongly suspect that this line of business remained a staple of the commercially successful McDermotts of Dublin many of whom, I believe, descended from him. As we noted, two McDermotts, Timothy and Christopher were wardens of the Merchant Taylor's Guild in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the same organization Edmond led in the 16<sup>th</sup>.

## *Chapter 8*

# *The MacDermots Roe of America*

MacDermots Roe began coming to America in the early 1700's and have continued to come throughout American history down to the 20th century. To date, MacDermots Roe in the United States in all their spelling variations number in the hundreds.

In this article, I will provide a summary of major family groupings of MacDermot Roe descendants in the United States as are presently known. In addition to discussing the American history of the family, I have attempted to show, if possible, how each group may connect to the MacDermots Roe in Ireland.

A particular problem in locating MacDermot Roe descendants is presented by the fact that the appellation Roe falls somewhere between an honorific title distinguishing only the head of a family, e.g. O'Connor Don, and a surname which would be passed on to each child in perpetuity. In general, it appears that until the early 17<sup>th</sup> century the Roe was used by a large proportion of sept members in order to show eligibility to be chieftain. Under Gaelic law, anyone whose great-grandfather had been a chieftain could become chieftain. Thus, distant cousins could vie to succeed a deceased chieftain.

After the introduction of primogeniture in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the English, it appears that the passing down of the appellation Roe declined markedly. In early 17<sup>th</sup> century, about 20 MacDermots Roe appear on leases. Over the next 200 years, the population of the Barony of Boyle which includes Tir Tuathail increased over 10 fold. So one would expect to find, at least, 200 MacDermots Roe by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. However, the number of MacDermots Roe in the Tithe Applotment Books of the 1820's and 1830's and Griffith's Valuation (1848-1864) appears to be less than 20.

Further difficulties arise from the fact that the appellation was not applied consistently. The line of Edmund/Thomas of Castletehen/Castlemyen in the Emlagh area of County Roscommon is often referred to without the

appellation. However, from wills, land agreements and other records, this line is now identified as MacDermot Roe. For example, Edmund and Thomas were found with the appellation in a 1748 postulation regarding their recommendation for the Bishop of Elphin.<sup>lxiii</sup>

Additionally, government clerks in the 19<sup>th</sup> century have generally ignored the appellation. Of the hundreds of MacDermots serving on both sides in the American Civil War, none were recorded on the official rosters with the Roe attached.

While Sir Dermot MacDermot showed a Canadian MacDermot Roe family descending from the MacDermot Roe branch at Alderford in a pedigree in *MacDermot of Moylurg*, it was subsequently learned that this Canadian family, in fact, descended from Terence MacDermot, younger brother of Hugh MacDermot, Prince of Coolavin (died 1824).<sup>lxiv</sup>

### **The MacDermots Roe/McDearmonsRoe of Virginia**

Michael MacDermot Roe (born Ireland circa 1700) whose surname became McDearmonroe in America appears to be the first member of the MacDermot Roe family to immigrate to America. Leaving Ireland before 1730, Michael settled in Prince Edward County, Virginia in the early 1700's when America was still a colony of England. He became the ancestor of a very large branch of MacDermot Roe family and his many descendants have played an integral role in American history over the next three centuries.

Michael McDearmonroe is listed in a Virginia land patent book in an entry dated September, 1745 where his name is rendered Michael McDermat Row. The entry records a grant to a John Nash who may have purchased some land rights from Michael.<sup>lxv</sup>

Michael McDearmonroe married Katherine Bowman who had a brother named Robert, died 1745/1746, Amelia County, Virginia. In the will of Robert Bowman, father of Royal Bowman, dated January 4, 1745/6, Michael and his wife appear as executors.<sup>lxvi</sup>

On May 20, 1746, Michael purchased 200 acres from Richard and Ann Womack. The land was located on the shore of the Sandy River in Amelia County, Virginia.<sup>lxvii</sup> When Prince Edward County was created in 1754, it included this part of Amelia County. On July 25, 1749, Michael added 200 acres to these holdings with a purchase of land on the main fork adjoining property of Alexander Womack and Michael's previously acquired land. His name was rendered Michael McDermot Row.<sup>lxviii</sup>

In 1759/60, Michael McDearmond (sic) was listed as a processioneer of St. Patrick's Parish (Church of England) in Prince Edward County, Virginia. The fact that the church was named after Ireland's patron saint suggests that many of the parishioners were Irish. We don't know if Michael had conformed to the Church of England before emigrating but, in any event, practicing Catholicism was not a viable option in most of the colonies before American independence.

Michael died in 1765 and his will is recorded in Prince Edward County. His name appears as Michael McDearmandro. Among his executors was Alexander Womack, brother of Richard.

Michael and Katherine McDearmonroe had four sons, Dudley, Brian, Michael and James and one daughter, Judith. Michael, James and Judith left no known descendants. However, Dudley and Brian became ancestors of large groups of McDearmons.

Son Michael was born on February 25, 1733 and baptized May 15, 1734. The Bristol Parish Register records his name as Micaill and his parents' names as Micaill and Catherine Mikedermond. He is not mentioned in his father's 1765 will. Micaill is an Irish rendering of Michael.

James served in both the French and Indian War (1754-1763) and the American Revolution (1775-1781). He died in service in the Revolution. It appears that James did not marry. Judith is mentioned in her father Michael's 1765 will. However, there is no other information available regarding her.

Sons Dudley and Bryan many descendants, now spread across the United States, are described below:

#### *Dudley McDearmonroe and his descendants*

Dudley McDearmonroe, son of Michael and Catherine, was born about 1730 in Virginia. He served in the French and Indian War under Colonel William Byrd. He was a constable in Prince Edward County. Dudley's two known children were Dudley, Jr. and Thomas whose details are as follows:

Dudley McDearmonroe, Jr., born circa 1755, who served in the American Revolution and had, at least, the following children:

- (1) Mary McDearmondro who married Joshua Davidson

- (2) Lucretia (Creasey) McDearmon who married George Davidson
- (3) Sarah McDearmon who married Alexander Womack, and

Thomas McDearmonroe (1758-1838) who, also, served in the American Revolution. He lived in Charlotte and Pittsylvania Counties, Virginia where he held 38 slaves in 1838 and had the following children:

- (1) Thomas McDearmon, Jr. who married Fanny, daughter of Francis Mason in Augusta County, Virginia on September 29, 1808
- (2) Others who probably include the McDearmons later in Tarboro, North Carolina.

*Bryan McDearmonroe and his descendants*

Bryan McDearmonroe (circa 1732-1813), son of Michael and Catherine McDearmonroe, married Sylvanie whose last name is unknown. Bryan served in the French and Indian War with his brother Dudley, Sr. under Colonel William Byrd. Bryan's seven known children were Michael, Bryan, Jr., Richard, Joseph, Elizabeth, Drury and James whose details are as follows:

- (1) Michael McDearmonroe who married Sally Ford on February 16, 1787 in Amelia County, Virginia
- (2) Bryan McDearmonroe, Jr. who migrated to Missouri in 1818
- (3) Richard McDearmon (1766-1829) who married Letitia Ford (1768-1851) on March 14, 1789. Richard and Letitia lived in Prince Edward County, later Appomattox County, and had one son:

Presbyterian Reverend James McDearmon (1790-1867) of "Mt. Evergreen", Prince Edward County, latter Appomattox County, who married Mary Daniel (1788-1866) and whose children included Colonel Samuel Daniel McDearmon (1815-1871). Colonel Samuel was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates (1845-1847, 1850-1851) and was a state senator from Appomattox and Lynchburg (1852-1854). His descendants continue to live within 50 miles of the first settlement of Michael McDearmonroe, born circa 1700.

(4) Joseph McDearmon (died 1835) of Powhatan and Prince Edward Counties. Joseph married Sarah Gill and they had two sons:

James Archibald McDearmon who married Mrs. Elizabeth (Hopkins) Miller and migrated to Gibson County, Tennessee. Among James' children was James Calvin McDearmon (born 1844) who was a member of the United States Congress from Tennessee from 1893 to 1897

George Gill McDearmon (1824-1860) who married Marcella Jones. George's children included Joseph H. McDearmon (born 1853) who migrated to Gibson County, Tennessee and Mattie E. McDearmon

(5) Elizabeth McDearmonroe who married Thompson Hargrove in 1787 and moved west

(6) Drury McDearmonroe who married Nancy Puckett of Prince Edward County on January 26, 1804

(7) James McDearmonroe (died 1816) who married Susannah Puckett of Prince Edward County on February 1, 1804 and who had three sons and a daughter including Judge James R. McDearmon (1805-1848) of Missouri who has descendants in California, Brian McDearmon, Henry E. W. McDearmon of Missouri and Frances McDearmon who married Edmund Gannaway.

As indicated in the above listing of Michael McDearmonroe's descendants, all dropped the appellation "Roe" by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. This is consistent with the pattern in Ireland. As noted earlier, after the early 17<sup>th</sup> century the passing down of the appellation was more the exception than the rule.

The roster of Confederate soldiers in the American War Between the States (1861-1865) shows a total of approximately 20 soldiers with the surname McDearmon or slight variations thereof, e.g. McDearman. The author believes that those surnamed McDearmon may be of Michael McDearmonroe's family as McDearmon is such an unusual variation of MacDermot. Additionally, most of the 20 Confederates were from Virginia and Tennessee where Michael McDearmonroe's descendants were known to live.

A search of internet directories reveals over 100 surnamed McDearmons. By extrapolation, these listings represent several hundred family members. Thus, the descendants of Michael McDearmonroe appear to constitute a large proportion of the presently known MacDermot Roe descendants world-wide.

Who were Michael's Irish ancestors?

A pattern of given names in Michael's immediate family suggests a possible connection with Bryan and Michael MacDermot Roe of the Emlagh area of County Roscommon who were born in the middle 1600's. Bryan and Michael (born mid-1600's) were part of the group of MacDermots Roe that settled well south of the Boyle River.<sup>lxxix</sup>

Neither Bryan nor Michael MacDermot Roe, born in the mid-1600's, appear on the MacDermot Roe pedigrees of 1865 in the National Library of Ireland.<sup>lxx</sup> However, in *MacDermot of Moylurg*, Dermot MacDermot states that a Bryan of Kilronan, Boyle burgomaster in 1687, was the son of Henry MacDermot Roe of Ballinahow (a minor in 1617, flourished 1641).<sup>lxxi</sup> As shown on the 1865 pedigrees, Henry of Ballinahow was the son of Cormac MacDermot Roe, died 1617.

Cormac was the brother of Cathal McFerganaim MacDermot Roe who held Ballinahow in 1584. In 1617 Cormac received from King James I a very large grant of lands south of the Boyle River including the castle at Ballinahow. The survey of land ownership in the barony of Boyle 1635-1641 shows Cormac's son Henry of Ballinahow with almost 3,000 acres.<sup>lxxii</sup> Ballinahow lies near modern day Cavetown and is about five miles south of the Boyle River.

Cormac was a second cousin of Conor MacDermot Roe (circa 1575-1650) who in 1607 received a grant of the MacDermot Roe lands in Tir Tuathail from King James I. Conor was the grandfather of Henry Baccach MacDermot Roe (circa 1645-1715) of Alderford whose descendants came to be chieftains when primogeniture was introduced. While Conor's line became dominant in the original MacDermot Roe country in northeastern County Roscommon, it appears that other MacDermot Roe lines, perhaps including the descendants of Fergananim, became the dominant MacDermots Roe south of the Boyle River.

It should be noted that Dermot MacDermot, also, mentions a Bryan McEdmund MacDermot Roe who appeared as an attorney in a 1690 land transaction.<sup>lxxiii</sup> This MacDermot Roe may descend from the Edmund Og MacDermot Roe shown on Bryan MacDermot's 1617 grant. He, also, may

belong to the line of Edmund/Thomas MacDermots Roe established south of the Boyle River.<sup>lxxiv</sup> However, since Michael did not name any of his sons Edmund or Thomas, I am inclined to believe that the McDearmonroes do not descend from the Edmund/Thomas line.

### **Colonel James McDermott-Roe of Ohio and descendants**

According to an obituary published in Toledo, Ohio newspapers Colonel James McDermott-Roe (January 17, 1830-December 29, 1886) was born near Cadue, County Roscommon. Cadue or Keadue is very near the MacDermot Roe seat of Alderford, Ballyfarnon and is in the heart of the MacDermot Roe ancestral country. Colonel James' father was a well to do farm freeholder who had 10 sons, including James, and one daughter.

Although born near Alderford, it does not appear that Colonel James was a descendant of Henry Baccach MacDermot Roe of Alderford. As set forth in the *MacDermot Clan Journal* article *Who Are the MacDermots Roe*, Alderford was occupied after 1752 until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century by the descendants of Henry Baccach's second son, John. John's male descendants are all shown in the 1865 MacDermot Roe pedigree and no James appears.

Until about 1759, Alderford was occupied by Henry Baccach's youngest son Charles (born circa 1700, died about 1759) with his wife Eleanor O'Connor (circa 1715-1815) and their children Charles, Henry and Mary and other children from Eleanor's first marriage. It does not appear that James descended from either Charles or Henry as there is no record of these names in James' family. Also, it is believed that James was raised a Protestant and the families of Charles and Henry were almost certainly Catholic.

The most likely person to be James' father is the James MacDermot Roe listed in the Tithe Applotment Book dated October, 1833 for Kilronan Civil Parish. Kilronan Civil Parish included Keadue.<sup>lxxv</sup> James, Sr. is listed with 35 acres, the largest holding shown. The case for James, Sr. as the Colonel's father is strengthened by the fact that Colonel James named one of his sons James.

In considering the ancestry of James, Sr., I note that there was only one James among the MacDermots Roe shown on leases in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. That was James McDudley (Shane McIdowalty) MacDermot Roe listed on the 1617 grant of King James I to Bryan MacDermot of Carrigg.<sup>lxxvi</sup> Since the only Dudley appearing on the pedigree is the father of Conor MacDermot Roe, the grantee of 1607, Shane/James McDudley was probably



Conor's brother. The reoccurrence of the name James and the fact that James, Sr. lived near Conor's seat suggest that James, Sr. may descend from James/Shane McDudley.

It makes sense that among the few MacDermot Roe descendants to continue using the appellation "Roe" into the 19<sup>th</sup> century would be the descendants of Conor's brother, James McDudley. Conor's descendants became the hereditary chieftains under English primogeniture from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century until the line of Conor's great-grandson John went extinct and the chieftaincy dormant. Perhaps, Conor's nephews, grandnephews would want to show their close connection to the chief by retaining the Roe.

In order to complete the pedigree of this line, it would be necessary to fill in the missing the 4/5 generations between James McDudley and James, Sr. I would estimate that James McDudley was born about 1590 and James, Sr. about 1800.

Colonel James first left Ireland, not for the United States of America, but for Scotland. He went there as a youth to work on the Caledonia railway line for a relative who was a railroad contractor. Returning to Ireland, he served for three years on the Irish constabulary. In 1853, he immigrated to America.

It appears that Colonel James married Caroline McPhillips (born 1834, Montpelier, Vermont, died October 8, 1919, Ironside, Oregon) soon after arriving in the USA. They first settled in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Colonel James was in Jackson, Mississippi in charge of a large force of men doing bridge and repair work on the New Orleans and Jackson Railroad. An outspoken Union man on Colonel James' crew was arrested by a committee of Confederate vigilantes who intended to hang him. After organizing the successful rescue of the employee, Colonel James made his way to New Orleans. After concealing himself for several days in a friend's house, James got aboard a north bound steamer disguised as a lame deck hand.

Arriving in Sheboygan, James engaged in raising several companies of troops for the Union army. In the fall of 1861, James became captain of Company E of the 117<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin infantry. His unit became a part of the Union Army of the Tennessee.

With the Army of the Tennessee, James served under the two most important Union generals of the war, Ulysses Grant and his successor, William T. Sherman. In 1863 and 1864, he took part in the campaigns to

capture Vicksburg, Mississippi, Atlanta, Georgia, as well as, in Sherman's March to the Sea. These campaigns were the crucial efforts that led to the Confederate defeat in the western theater of the Civil War and, ultimately, the surrenders of the Confederate armies commanded by Robert E. Lee and Joseph Johnston in April and May, 1865, respectively.

In 1863 in a battle at Vicksburg, James was severely wounded in the leg. During the Atlanta campaign the next year, he was struck in the face by a piece of shell that knocked out several teeth, but he continued to fight all night. While skirmishing on the Chattahoochee River, he received a flesh wound in the hip.

In January 1865, James was mustered out of the active duty as the result of the physical disabilities caused by his battle wounds. In a letter dated September 14, 1864 to Colonel James B. Fry, U.S. Provost Marshal General requesting transfer to the reserve corps, James set forth his many campaigns and marches from the siege of Corinth in the Spring of 1862 to the taking of Atlanta in September 1864. He concludes the letter:

"I was not capable of accomplishing much in any of the latter marches owing to the lameness of my leg, and the pain caused by our exertion on the march. I was obliged to ride the greater part of the way. The disabilities were caused by a gunshot wound to my right leg received at the Battle of Vicksburg, Miss. May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1863...."

Although James returned north to his home now located in Toledo, Ohio, he did not stay out of the action for long. In early 1865, James helped organize a new regiment, the 189<sup>th</sup> Ohio infantry of Columbus, Ohio. He was named the regiment's Lieutenant Colonel, second in command.

The 189<sup>th</sup> Ohio was sent to Huntsville, Alabama where James succeeded to command of the regiment. For six months, Colonel James served as president of the military commission in occupied Huntsville.

Later in 1865, James left the military service and was appointed head of the postal service of the Wabash railroad. Serving for three years there, James perfected a system of mail distribution on the Wabash and its southwestern connections. Later, James served in numerous public offices in Toledo including city councilman. He died at the age of only 56 from complications arising from his war wounds.

James and his wife Caroline had three children: a son James who died in infancy in 1854/5, a son George Edward (January 25, 1856-April 14,

1938) who married Susan Applegate and a daughter Mary Ida (May 12, 1859-March 3, 1899) who married Charles D. Battelle of Toledo.

George Edward McDermott-Roe and his wife Susan had James Edwin (May 25, 1894-March 24, 1964) and Carl Applegate (February 1, 1897-September 18, 1981) who married Bonnie Schall. In 1905, George Edward migrated west with his family and went into the cattle business in Ontario, Oregon near the Idaho border.

Carl who shortened the surname to McD-Roe continued in ranching and passed on a growing business. He had three children including a son who operates the family ranch and returned the surname to its original spelling, McDermott-Roe.

### **Descendants of Cornelius McDermottroe of Moygara**

Cornelius McDermot Roe, who was shown in Griffith's Primary Valuation in Moygara, Kilfree Parish, County Sligo in 1858, married Anne Reid in September, 1858. Their children included Honora, born August 1, 1864.

In the 1880's Honora immigrated to the United States settling in Cincinnati, Ohio where she married John McDonough who is believed to have emigrated from County Sligo. This is interesting as the McDonough's were originally an offshoot of the MacDermots. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century they clashed with the MacDermots Roe over territory on the Sligo-Roscommon border. However, relations improved greatly over the years.

Honora and John's children included Elizabeth Alice (born December 20, 1899, died March 20, 1929) who married Edward Woebkenberg in Cincinnati on September 7, 1921. They had a son and a daughter whose many descendants include the Woebkenbergs, Crawfords, Chimentis, Geisers, Reids, Niebuhers and Gleesons.

The children of Cornelius McDermottroe, also, included a son Roger, born March 27, 1866 who married Anna Margaret Hanna, October 20, 1891. The children of Roger and Anna included a daughter Anna Margaret who married Dr. Thomas Shipsey of Waterford and had issue and a son Charlie, who was an officer in the British army and married Dolores Mangan. The descendants of Charlie, who live in Ireland and England, continue to use the surname McDermott-Roe.

## **Descendants of Michael McDermottRoe of Crosshill**

Michael MacDermottRoe, born about 1815, of Crosshill, Kilronan Parish, County Roscommon, married Anne Duignan January 17, 1842. Among their children were Henry, born April 1850, died December 16, 1943, Crosshill and Anna, born about November 1855, died August 6, 1928.

Michael's son, Henry, had a daughter Mary, born about 1885, Crosshill who married Patrick McMenamin and they had a son John, born May 31, 1919, Ballyfarnon, Kilronan Parish. John immigrated to America and married Margaret (Peggy) Dolan in 1954 and resided in Gaithersburg, Maryland. John and Peggy had four sons.

Some years ago, the author had the pleasure of speaking with John about his youth in Ballyfarnon. He recalled the very busy Arigna coal mine operations nearby where he once worked. The coal mines in Kilronan succeeded the MacDermot Roe controlled iron foundries in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and remained active until 1990.

Among the children of Henry McMichael, was Mary's younger brother Henry Joseph born May 1, 1890, Crosshill who married Bridget Leydon whose children included a daughter who married a Tuite and had three daughters and a son. Additionally, Mary had a younger sister Caroline, born June 28, 1892 who married P. J. Hickey and had a daughter Josephine, born 1926, died 1998 who married a Ryan and had two sons and two daughters. These families are among Michael of Crosshill's descendants living in Ireland.

Michael's daughter, Anna, immigrated to the United States and married Richard Dooley about 1882. They lived in Harrison, New Jersey and had six sons and one daughter. Among them was Paul, born August 20, 1901, Harrison, New Jersey, died March 21, 1941, Bronx, New York who married Anna Margaret Rice had a son and a daughter who both had issue and whose descendants include Nolans.

## **The McDermottroes of Cloghmine (Roes)**

James McDermottroe (circa 1850-1896) of Cloghmine, County Sligo married Margaret Breheny (1852-1928) and they had four sons and two daughters in Ireland. Following James' death, Margaret immigrated to the United States settling in East Providence, Rhode Island. While the 1896 passenger list shows the surname with an appellation, the name was subsequently shortened to Roe.

Of the six children of James and Margaret, three, Michael Joseph (1879-1936), James J. (1883-1951) and Madeline Delia (born 1889) have extensive families in the northeastern United States where the line continues. Austin Roe, son of James J., graduated from George Washington University and Yale Law School and was a lawyer for the Reconstruction Finance Administration. He later served for several years as a federal administrative law judge. Michael Joseph had a daughter Catherine Mary who married Gerald Joseph Nelson.

That the name MacDermot Roe was shortened to Roe is not at all surprising. The Roe is commonly mistaken for the surname. For example, Colonel James MacDermot Roe was listed in the roster of Union soldiers under the R's as Roe. This phenomena suggests that an investigation of the Roes of America might turn up more MacDermot Roe descendants.

In view of the repetition of the name James and the proximity of Stephen's ancestor James (born 1850) to Colonel James' birthplace, the families may be closely related. James MacDermot Roe (born circa 1790) might be, not only, the father of Colonel James, but also, the grandfather of Stephen's ancestor James through one of his other nine sons.

In my discussion of Colonel James' family, I suggested that the Colonel's branch descends from the only known James in the family in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, i.e. James McDudley MacDermot Roe, listed on the 1617 lease of Bryan MacDermot of Carrigge. If my reasoning is correct then the Roes may, also, descend from this James McDudley, probable brother of Conor the grantee of 1607.

### **The MacDermots Roe of Frenchpark**

A large branch of the MacDermots Roe has lived for centuries in Tibohine Civil Parish, County Roscommon in the vicinity of Cloonshanville Abbey founded by the MacDermots Roe in 1385 near modern day Frenchpark. This branch is represented in the United States by the McDermottsroe of Woburn, Massachusetts.

The McDermottsroe of Woburn family is the most recent branch of the MacDermots Roe to have come to America having emigrated from Ireland in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. It is among the few branches of MacDermots Roe to retain the appellation Roe in America.

The McDermottsroe of Woburn descend from Charles McDermottroe (born circa 1865) of the Frenchpark area who had a son Patrick (circa 1900-

1980), also, of the Frenchpark. Patrick's sons immigrated to America as adults, settled in Massachusetts and have descendants.

It is interesting to note that the McDermottroe of Woburn established an automotive service business in Massachusetts since "carman" is the occupation listed for some MacDermots Roe of Tibohine Civil Parish in the Elphin Census of 1749. A carman was a person who owned and drove horse drawn vehicles for transporting goods.

### **The MacDermots Roe of Tawnymucklagh**

Edward McDermottroe (born circa 1820) of Tawnymucklagh Townland, Kilcolman Civil Parish, County Roscommon married Anne Kelly in Ballaghaderreen, Archonry Civil Parish on October 8, 1846. Oral history from contemporary local sources in Ireland indicates that Edward was the son of Molloy MacDermot Roe, a younger son of Thomas MacDermot Roe (1784-1823) of Alderford.

Children of Edward and Anne included Patrick (born circa 1864). Patrick married Margaret Brennan, lived in Leeds and later immigrated to Providence, Rhode Island.

Patrick and Margaret had 12 children, some born in Leeds and some in Rhode Island. Their son Patrick, who died in World War I while serving in the British Army, had a son Edward who had issue. It is estimated that Patrick MacDermot Roe (born circa 1864) has about 400 descendants in North America.

### **The MacDermots Roe of Emlagh**

The evidence suggests that Patrick MacDermotRoe, (born 1782/1783 or 1788/1789, Ireland, died September 22, 1849 or June 13, 1852, New York City, New York) was of the MacDermots Roe of Emlagh. Emlagh, an area in central County Roscommon about 28 miles south of the MacDermot Roe base in Kilronan Parish, was home to a large group of MacDermots Roe in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Patrick came to the United States with his brother Michal circa 1800 and eventually settled in New York.

Patrick's male line died out in 1906 upon the death of his younger son John without male issue. The surname MacDermot Roe was revived by the author, Patrick's matrilineal descendant. See Chapter 7, *infra*, for a

discussion of the MacDermots Roe of Emlagh and Chapter 13, *infra*, for more details regarding Patrick and his wife Dorothy Irving.

## *Chapter 9*

# *How Many MacDermots Roe Are There?*

How many MacDermots Roe descendants are there around the world? At first glance, the MacDermot Roe family appears quite small. However, a closer examination provides a surprising answer.

In 2006, Yahoo People Search showed 11,280 listings for McDermotts in the United States. A search of the same database for MacDermots Roe in a variety of spellings showed just 15. Thus, less than 1% of McDermott listings were MacDermots Roe. To put it another way, there were about 1,000 McDermotts for every 1 MacDermot Roe.

The Yahoo People Search is certainly not as accurate as a census. It overstates the number of McDermott and MacDermot Roe households as they would have been defined in earlier times. First, many single individuals who would not have been listed as separate households in 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century records appear in Yahoo as separate listings. In addition, the Yahoo People Search has many duplicate entries. Nonetheless, the Yahoo search is a good indication of the tiny proportion of surnamed MacDermots Roe among all McDermotts today.

Are there really so few McDermotts Roe? In order to answer this question, one needs to go back to the earliest records to trace the relative size of the McDermotts and MacDermots Roe over a long period.

An early record which gives us an indication of the relationship between the number of McDermotts and MacDermots Roe is the 1617 Grant from King James I to Bryan MacDermot of the Rock in which appears the names of 44 McDermotts and the lands assigned to each. Out of the 44 McDermotts appearing on the grant, 22 were McDermotts Roe. Additionally, Conor MacDermot Roe of Camagh, not listed, received a separate grant from the King in 1607.



The grants of 1617 and 1607 include most McDermotts of the time. Pender's Census, taken in 1659 more than a generation later, shows only 61 McDermotts in Moylurg. It is astonishing that the MacDermots Roe constitute one-half of all McDermotts in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

One cannot help be wonder why so many McDermotts still kept their distinct Roe identity in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. It should be remembered that three and a half centuries had elapsed since the sept's ancestor Dermot Roe, grandson of the King of Moylurg, was blinded by the King of Connaught. So, for about ten successive generations, about one half of the McDermott clan continued to identify with Dermot Roe by passing on the appellation Roe to their children.

The 1617 Grant represents the high water mark as to percentage of McDermotts who can be identified as MacDermots Roe in historical records. As the population of Ireland grew dramatically from a little less than one million in the 17<sup>th</sup> century to its peak of about 8 million in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the population of McDermotts, also, leaped. However, the proportion of McDermotts who could be identified as MacDermots Roe declined steadily.

The best headcount of MacDermots Roe in the 18<sup>th</sup> century is the Elphin Census of 1749. This Census covered families living in the Diocese of Elphin which includes most of County Roscommon.

A sample of 6 parishes in the Elphin Census of 1749 shows 11 MacDermot Roe households out of 60 McDermott households or 18%. Elphin does not include Kilronan Parish where there was a concentration of MacDermots Roe. However, even if this data were available, the percentage of McDermotts Roe would almost certainly have declined substantially from 1617.

The trend towards a reduced percentage of MacDermots Roe does not mean that they were moving away. It simply means that MacDermot Roe descendants were not insisting that the appellation distinguishing the family was included on civil records. For example, we now know that a large group of MacDermots Roe were established in area of central western County Roscommon known as Emlagh. But out of about 20 presumed MacDermot Roe descendants in the Elphin Census in Emlagh, only one is shown with the Roe.

In the century following the Elphin Census, the proportion of McDermott households recorded on civil records as MacDermots Roe continued to decline. Griffiths Valuation (1848-1864) for County Roscommon

shows about 25 MacDermot Roe households out of about 500 McDermott households and for County Sligo shows 12 MacDermot Roe households out of about 120 McDermott households. The 37 MacDermot Roe families represent just 6% of the McDermotts in the two counties.

Why did use of the Roe decline so greatly from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century to modern times? There are several explanations.

A very important reason for the decline in the use of the appellation was that the Roe was, and continues to be, alphabetically confusing. Under English colonial rule, written recordkeeping assumed much greater importance. In order to avoid confusion, it was best to tell the authorities, particularly civil authorities, that one's surname was simply McDermott.

An example of this confusion is in the recordkeeping of the British Army with respect to Patrick MacDermot Roe, a young officer who served in the late 18<sup>th</sup> early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. He is initially listed as M'Dermott Roe with no first name. Later he appears under "R" with Roe being deemed his surname and M'Dermott his middle name. This example shows how the historian must check both "R" and "M" when researching a MacDermot Roe.

A second reason for the decline of the Roe after the early 17<sup>th</sup> century may have had to do with the English abolition of the Irish law of tanistry. Under tanistry any MacDermot Roe whose great-grandfather had been chief was eligible to be elected chief. Since the MacDermot Roe chieftaincy moved from branch to branch during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, a majority of MacDermots Roe may have been within this eligibility zone. Thus, the continuation of the use of the Roe in your branch of the family would be a sign of your eligibility to become chief. With the abolition of Irish tanistry in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, retention of the Roe lost its importance with respect to eligibility to succeed as chief.

Another important reason for the decline of the use of the appellation in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries was family mobility. As families left the MacDermot Roe original base in northern County Roscommon for other parts of Ireland or for foreign countries, the Roe was dropped in all but a few cases. It even became disused by MacDermot Roe descendants in other parts of Roscommon.

When MacDermots Roe went to Dublin to seek their fortune, they, not only, dropped the Roe, but also, sometimes the Mac as well. The successful merchant family, the Dermott's of Usher's Quay, Dublin, believed to be MacDermot Roe descendants, seemed to have used Dermott in Dublin, McDermott in Louth and MacDermot Roe or McDermott in Emlagh,

Roscommon. A search of the Dublin business directory for 1850 shows many McDermotts but not a single MacDermot Roe.

The Roe was rarely continued as an appellation in North America. Sometimes, it might be used as a middle name but rarely in its proper place. In one instance, the McDermott was dropped in favor of the Roe, but generally the Roe was dropped. Not only was the appellation alphabetically confusing, but the locals would not have understood its significance.

Despite the rarity of the surname in modern records, it is clear based on the early records that there are a very large number of McDermott Roe descendants living today. If one assumes that there are about 3,000 McDermott of Moylurg households in the world today, it would be reasonable to assume that at least 1,000 of them descend from MacDermots Roe. If one includes households where there is a McDermott mother, grandmother or great-grandmother, the total increases by multiples.

Thus, while the MacDermot Roe family may appear to be small, it is actually quite large. As McDermott descendants research their genealogies, many will discover that they, in fact, descend from the MacDermots Roe and share in the family's distinct history.

## Chapter 10

### *What is a Biatach?*

Biatach, also, spelled biadhach, is a Gaelic word translated as farmer and provider. *Alexander MacBain, An Etymological Dictionary of the Gaelic Language*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 1911, reprinted 1982. Biatach is derived from the root word bia/biadh meaning food or to feed. It has a connotation of hospitality to those in need. Thus, the term biatach suggests one who feeds, nourishes, welcomes and supports.

In ancient times, the Irish would set aside lands whose produce would provide sustenance for the poor. Sometimes the endowment would include a "hospital" or guesthouse/hospice. This facility would be available to travelers, as well as, the poor.

The person charged with responsibility for the property set aside for the poor was the biatach. The position of biatach would have been hereditary. In this respect, the position was similar to that of the erenach, the lay steward of church lands. The hereditary nature of the MacDermots Roe position as Biatach was confirmed in a 1992 letter to the author from Irish historian Cyril Mattimoe, author of *North Roscommon - its People and Past*.

In the *Annals of the Four Masters*, Cormac MacDermot Roe, who was killed in a battle in 1365, was described as Biatach General of Connaught. According to this entry, as Biatach General, Cormac was responsible for the welfare of the poor and homeless and for the provision of food and shelter to travelers. *Annals of the Four Masters*, Electronic Text Edition, M1365.6. One would assume from the title that Cormac was responsible, not only, for the duties of biatach in the kingdom of Moylurg in northern County Roscommon, but also, for the supervision of local biatachs throughout the Kingdom of Connaught.

The responsibilities of the Biatach General would appear to be somewhat similar to those of the many charitable religious institutions in Connaught. Prominent among these was Boyle Abbey established by the Cistercians in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century on land donated by the MacDermots. Dermot Roe, Cormac's father, was buried at Boyle Abbey in 1341.

As a result of their shared charitable responsibilities, there must have been close connection between the MacDermots Roe and the various orders administering the abbeys. Thus, it is not surprising that the MacDermots Roe were among the bishops and abbots of Roscommon.

Additionally, it would have been consistent with their responsibilities as Biatach General for the MacDermots Roe to have established charitable institutions. According to Aubrey Gwynn and R. Neville Haddock, the authorities on early Irish religious establishments:

"The Dominican priory of the Holy Cross (at Cloonshanville, near Frenchpark, County Roscommon) was fd. almost certainly by MacDermot Roe (Rufus), a ms. giving the date 1385." *Medieval Religious Houses, Ireland*, London, 1970 at page 223.

It is likely that the MacDermots Roe played a continuing role in the operation of the priory at Cloonshanville from 1385 to its closing by the English in 1698. The last Prior of the priory at Cloonshanville was Bernard MacDermotRoe who was compelled to leave Ireland for the Continent. Other MacDermot Roe families who settled in the Cloonshanville area may, also, have served the priory as lay people - caring for the sick and providing food and shelter to the poor and to travelers, as well as, logistical support for the priory.

I have found no other reference to the position of Biatach General anywhere else in Ireland. It may be that the position was unique to Connaught.

It is not known how long the MacDermots Roe held the position. Presumably, it would have been extinguished when the Gaelic system of law and government was supplanted by the English around 1600. However, the family tradition was carried on by MacDermots Roe individually as for example, Ambrose MacDermot Roe, bishop of Elphin (1707-1717) during the harshest days of the Penal Laws and Prior Bernard MacDermot Roe of Cloonshanville.

## *Chapter 11*

# *MacDermot Roe Heraldry*

Coats of arms originated in 12th century Europe as devices on shields and surcoats. Their purpose was to identify armored knights and their followers in battle. The coats of arms and later crests and mottos evolved into a non-military identification of families.

Irish families do not seem to have used coats of arms earlier than the 16<sup>th</sup> century. How these devices came to be used in Ireland is not clear. According to Sir Dermot MacDermot, the earliest representation of the MacDermot coat of arms appears on a 1617 Grant from King James I to Brian Og MacDermot. See pages 520-523 *MacDermot of Moylurg* (1997).

The coats of arms of the MacDermot and MacDermot Roe families are the same:

Dark Blue: 3 boars' heads  
Gold: Crosses, circles, boars' tusks and bristles  
Red: Band or chevron, boars' tongues  
White: Main part of shield

The crests of the families are sometimes described as a boar's head and at other times as a demi-lion rampant.

While the MacDermots and MacDermots Roe have the same coat of arms, the families have different Latin mottos. These evidently were adopted later since they do not appear on the older coats of arms.

The MacDermot Roe motto adopted by the MacDermots Roe of Alderford, County Roscommon is Honor Paobataque Virtus which means "Honor and Proven (demonstrated) manliness". The MacDermot motto is "Honore et Virtute" meaning "Honor and Virtue".

From his study of Irish heraldry, Sir Dermot concludes that Coats of Arms and Crests were of minor importance to ancient Gaelic families. He speculates that Irish who were educated by the English in the 17<sup>th</sup> century may have acquired an interest in heraldry as an aristocratic status symbol.

Nonetheless, symbols are powerful methods of communicating identity and purpose. In this light, the motto “Justice and Charity” appears on the MacDermot Roe coat of arms published by the author’s family in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. This motto is inspired by the MacDermot Roe service as Biatach General, the official responsible for caring for the poor and homeless in the Kingdom of Connaught and, thus, is a reminder of the MacDermot Roe commitment to charity and social justice.

## *Chapter 12*

### *The Roscommon Peerage Trial*

The story is set amongst the Irish nobility and gentry of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The characters include an Earl and a young servant girl with whom the Earl falls in love. Defying social convention, the young couple become a pair and live happily in a country house where they raise several children.

Upon his death, the Earl is succeeded by a young son, a bit of rake in his adolescence, but now ready to assume the Earldom. But hold. A distant cousin appears on the scene who contends that he, not the young son, is the rightful Earl. The pretender claims that the young Earl is disqualified from the title on the grounds that he was born out of wedlock.

Sounds like a romance novel or television miniseries? Nonetheless, these events actually happened and they gave rise to a dramatic trial in the Irish House of Lords in 1792 and 1793 to determine the rightful 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Roscommon. And as the transcript of the Roscommon Peerage Trial reveals, the MacDermot Roe family played a crucial role in the outcome of the dispute.

The late Earl was John Dillon (1720-1782), the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Roscommon. His son and heir to the Earldom was Patrick Dillon. Patrick's challenger was his cousin Robert Dillon of Rath, Kings County. The key issue to be determined by the House of Lords was whether Patrick's parents were wed at the time of Patrick's birth in 1769. If the court found that there had been no wedding, as alleged by Robert Dillon, Patrick would have been disqualified from the earldom and the title would have passed to Robert, the nearest male relation.

First, here's some background on the Dillon's, how they became Earls and how they came to have a close relationship with the MacDermots Roe ...

The Dillon's, British Celts who settled in Brittany, France to escape the Anglo-Saxons, arrived in Ireland in 1185 with England's Prince John. They established themselves as Irish nobles – first in Westmeath and later in Roscommon and Mayo. The two most important titles associated with the



family were Viscount of Costello-Gallon in Mayo and Earl of Roscommon. These titles were created in March 16, 1621 and August 5, 1622, respectively, and can be traced in Dillon pedigrees at the National Library of Ireland.

Due to primogeniture and the lack of male heirs, the succession to the Earldom of Roscommon zigzagged from one Dillon branch to another. John Dillon descended from James Dillon, 1st Earl of Roscommon through James' second son Lucas. Lucas was transplanted by Cromwell from Westmeath to Toomore, Aughrim Civil Parish, County Roscommon.

Lucas of Toomore had one son James who had a son Patrick of Toomore (died 1745), who was the father of several sons including John. In order to avoid the impoverishment of the family under the Penal Laws, Patrick, a Catholic, sold most of his property to Caulfield, a Protestant. Under the Penal Laws, Patrick's real property could not be passed down intact but he could bequeath his personal wealth as he desired.

After selling the Toomore estate, Patrick Dillon moved to Knockranny, Kilronan Parish, County Roscommon where he became very close to the MacDermots Roe who lived nearby. His daughter Christine married Terence MacDermot Roe of Knockranny. Patrick and his children, also, became close friends of the MacDermots Roe of Alderford, including Mary Fitzgerald MacDermotRoe, the patroness of Turlough, O'Carolan (1670-1738), and her son Charles who married Elinor O'Connor, daughter of Charles O'Connor of Belanagar.

Although Patrick Dillon was not the Earl of Roscommon when he died at Knockranny in 1745, the Earldom passed to his sons when the Dillon branch that held the title went extinct in the male line. In 1770 the Earldom passed to John, (1720-1782), Patrick's youngest son as the older sons all died without male issue. Despite becoming Earl, John did not take his seat in the Irish House of Lords because he refused to renounce his Catholic faith.

John Dillon first married Catherine, daughter of Edward Fallon of Kye, County Roscommon near Ballintober. John and Catherine had three daughters: Margaret who married Lawrence Manion, Dymphna who married a Hanley and Helen who married Matthew Manning. Following Catherine's death, John moved back to Knockranny to live with a niece, Dymphna McDonnell, the daughter of his sister Christine who was married to Edward McDonnell.

While living with Dymphna, John met and fell in love with Bridget Mullany a local girl who was working for the McDonnell's. While the Mullany's

were among the prominent old families around Lough Key, Bridget's social status was lower than that of the Dillon's in the view of some of John's cousins. Consequently, John's relationship with Bridget met with the severe disapproval of most Dillon's.

Probably in the mid to late 1750's, John and Bridget set up household in Carrownanalt Townland, Kilronan Parish where they had, at least, five children. The testimony at the Roscommon Peerage Trial of the eldest boy Luke indicated that he was born about 1759. Another daughter Mary was probably born a little before this since the trial record shows that she was an adult before the earl died in 1782. Three more children are known to have been born between 1767 and 1772, Patrick, Nancy and Thomas.

John and Bridget Dillon were a part of a small circle of gentry in Kilronan Parish. The testimony of several witnesses including Henry MacDermot Roe's butler, David Glynn, and Charles MacDermot Roe, Henry's brother, show that among Lord and Lady Dillon's closest friends were the MacDermots Roe of Mount Allen. This family then included Henry, his brother Charles, his sister Mary and their mother, Elinor O'Connor MacDermot Roe, widow of Charles of Alderford who in died 1759. Elinor and her children lived at various places in Kilronan Parish following her eviction from Alderford by her Protestant brother-in-law, John MacDermot Roe, after the death of her husband Charles.

It was conceded that John and Bridget were not married at the time they set up house in Carrownanalt. However, did they marry at a later date? Is so, when? Young Patrick Dillon had to show that a marriage occurred and that it took place before his birth in 1769.

The Roscommon Peerage Trial began in the Irish House of Lords in February 1792. Robert Dillon presented his case, relying in large part on the testimony of Margaret Manion, John Dillon's daughter from his first marriage. She and other witnesses opposed to John's relationship with Bridget testified that no marriage had taken place. Their testimony carried considerable weight and it does not appear that Patrick put in a strong case.

At the conclusion of the February 1792 hearing, it appeared that Robert Dillon would be awarded the Earldom. However, Charles Dillon, the 12th Viscount of Costello-Gallen in County Mayo, made a speech in the Irish House of Lords calling for a new trial to give John's son Patrick the opportunity to prove his claim for the Earldom. As the result of this request, a second hearing on the dispute was held in the House of Lords in March 1793.

In the period between the two hearings, it is clear that the MacDermots Roe decided to actively support Patrick's claim to be the 11<sup>th</sup> earl of Roscommon. The trial transcript suggests various members of the family and an important family servant worked with Patrick's attorney to prepare for the March 1793 trial. When the trial date came, they appeared as witnesses and provided critical testimony in the House of Lords on Patrick's behalf.

In his testimony at the March 1793 trial, David Glynn, the MacDermot Roe butler, stated that after living with Bridget for several years out of wedlock, John determined to marry her. As Glynn relates, this did not turn to be a simple matter since the local priest, Daniel Early, refused to perform the wedding. Father Early probably feared retaliation by Dillon family members who disapproved of John's relationship with Bridget.

According to Glynn, about 1766, he personally delivered a letter from John Dillon to Bishop Brady of Ardagh requesting that Father Early be ordered to perform the marriage. Glynn stated that the bishop responded with a letter to John Dillon directing Early to perform the marriage. This letter was forwarded by John to Father Early. Glynn understood that a small wedding took place about 1766 in the Dillon home in Carrownanalt but he himself did not attend it.

Twenty seven years had passed since the small wedding of John and Bridget at Carrownanalt. Were there any guests to the wedding still around who could testify?

Fortunately for Patrick Dillon, there was one. He was John MacDermot Roe, a friend of the Earl's who had a farm near Carrownanalt. He testified that Father Early, on his way to the Dillon house to perform the marriage, encountered John and asked him to come along with him. When John MacDermotRoe got there, John Dillon invited him into the parlor where Father Early performed the wedding. Among the other guests at the wedding, said John, were Bryan MacDermot Roe and his wife Honor Dignan.

John MacDermot Roe, also, testified that he often dined at the Dillon house and that Bridget was called Mrs. Dillon. He said that after John Dillon became the 10<sup>th</sup> earl of Roscommon in 1770, Bridget was called Lady Dillon. He added that John Dillon always acknowledged Bridget as his wife and considered Patrick his lawful son.

In his testimony in House of Lords, Charles MacDermotRoe, Elinor's son, also, stated unequivocally that John and Bridget were husband and wife. Like Glynn, Charles stated that in his frequent visits to the Dillon

house, John referred to Bridget as Mrs. Dillon or Lady Dillon. The Earl, also, told Charles that "he was very happy at being married to her... happier than to be with his Relations." The last remark suggests why the rest of John Dillon's close family sought to scuttle young Patrick's inheritance of the earldom.

A recurring theme of the witnesses is that John and Bridget Dillon were frequent guests at the home of Elinor MacDermot Roe and her sons Charles and Henry. Glynn stated that he often served the Earl and his wife at the MacDermot Roe house. Witness William Coultard, a friend of Henry MacDermot Roe's and the second husband of Henry's sister Mary, also, mentioned seeing the Dillons at Elinor's house. Patrick O'Connor, a friend of Henry, stated that Henry introduced him to Lord and Lady Dillon and that he often dined with them at the MacDermot Roe house.

It would appear that the MacDermot Roe's support for Patrick's case went further than appearing as witnesses on his behalf. In his testimony, Charles MacDermot Roe states that Patrick and his attorneys stayed at his house during the March 1793 hearing. Charles apparently split his time between his mother's home in Kilronan Parish and another home in Summerhill, a neighborhood of Dublin. Additionally, Glynn stated that he spoke with Henry MacDermot Roe before testifying.

The MacDermot Roe support for young Patrick's cause was especially important since the late Earl's own family continued to oppose Patrick at the March 1793 trial. The testimony of James Begg, son of John Dillon's sister, and Dymphna McDonnell, wife of Edward McDonnell shows that Begg, Edward and Dymphna McDonnell, as well as, Charles O'Connor of Mount Allen, Elinor's nephew, allied themselves with Robert Dillon. In addition to supporting Robert in their House of Lords testimony, they assisted Robert in gathering John Dillon's papers. Robert hoped that these papers would provide evidence useful to his claim.

According to Begg's testimony, money was promised to Bridget following John's death to induce her to give John's will and other personal papers to the McDonnells. Begg's testimony indicates that Robert's allies expected a financial reward for their assistance. This strong implication was noted by the Lords at the end of the trial to Robert's detriment. Although the Lords clearly disapproved of Robert's tactic they did not press the point.

Largely as the result of the testimony of the MacDermots Roe, the Irish House of Lords dismissed the challenge of Robert Dillon and confirmed John's son Patrick as the 11th Earl of Roscommon. Patrick latter married Barbara, the youngest daughter of Ignatius Begg of Belrea, County

Roscommon. They had one daughter but no son. Thus, the title passed to a cousin upon Patrick's death at Babaravilla, County Roscommon on November 17, 1816.

Fortunately, the transcript of the proceedings in Dublin in the House of Lords on March 6, 9 and 30, 1792 and February 4, 12, 14 and 15, 1793 was preserved and sent to London after the 1800 Act of Union which merged the Irish House of Lords with the House of Lords of Great Britain. The transcript was later published as part of the record in an 1823 trial in the British House of Lords in the dispute over the succession to the Earldom of Roscommon between cousins Michael James Robert Dillon and Francis Stephen Dillon which followed Patrick Dillon's death.

*Sources:*

*House of Lords. Roscommon Peerage Case. Peerage Claims, Volume II. British House of Lords Records Office, London, England.*

*Dillon Pedigrees GOMs 172, pp 52-91 and GOMs 170, pp 271-299, National Library, Dublin, Ireland*

*Chapter 13*

*Patrick MacDermotRoe and*

*Dorothy Irving*

Patrick MacDermotRoe and his wife Dorothy Irving were the parents of Catherine MacDermot Roe Fagan, from whom the author descends. They were both born in Ireland, Patrick probably in 1782/1783 and Dorothy in 1789/1790. They both died in New York City, Patrick possibly in 1849 and Dorothy in 1837.

The earliest reference to Patrick is in the will dated September 19, 1813 of his brother Michal (sic) who died in Philadelphia shortly thereafter. The will names both Patrick and Michal with the appellation Roe following the surname as a separate word. The presence of the appellation on a public record in the United States is rare. Furthermore, this is the only rendering of the name in the historically accurate form of two separate words that has been found in the United States.

In the will, Michal, described as "late of Ireland", bequeaths half of his assets to Patrick with the other half going to Michal's wife, Ann, if alive, and two daughters, Honour and Mary. As executors, Michal appoints Peter McDurmed (sic), Peter Philips of Philadelphia and Patrick Benson of New York. The witnesses were Charles Fanning, James McGarant, and John Dolan. See Letters granted to Peter McDermott. *Pennsylvania Wills 1682-1834*, WFT, CD #209.

Peter McDurmed is obviously a MacDermot cousin whose name has been rendered in a variant form. It is not clear how he was related to Michal.

The other executors, Patrick Benson and Charles Fanning, may have been acquainted with the MacDermots Roe in Ireland as both surnames

appear in areas of County Roscommon near the MacDermots Roe. Additionally, they may have been New York City business associates of Michal and Patrick MacDermot Roe. The 1811 NYC directory shows Henry Fanning, merchant at 81 South Street with a residence at 338 Pearl. The firm of Fanning and Coles is listed at 81 South Street. In that directory, Patrick Benson is shown as a grocer at 27 Augustus Street.

It would appear that Michal had business in both New York City and Philadelphia. He appears to be the Michael McDermott in the New York City business directory as a laborer at 38 Duane Street in 1809, at 136 Division in 1810 and at 156 Division in 1811. In the 1812 Philadelphia directory, Michael is listed as a laborer on Front Street. From his location near the waterfront and the known occupations of other members of the family, it appears that Michael was a teamster/shipper who handled the land and water transport of goods.

In 1809 New York City directory, a Patrick McDermott, possibly Michal's brother, is listed as a grocer at 57 Cheapside. No Patrick McDermot is listed in in the Philadelphia directory for the years 1809-1812.

At that time, grocers were more like wholesalers of flour and other perishables than modern grocers with their large variety of packaged goods. So it is not surprising to find a teamster who sells the bulk goods he carries. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, we find Thomas Fagan, a successful teamster, also, listed in the Troy, New York directory as a grocer. Fagan married Patrick's daughter, Catherine.

From Michal's will and street listings, we may surmise the following:

1. Michal arrived in New York or Philadelphia prior to 1809. His wife and children remained in Ireland since at the time of his death he was not aware if his wife was still alive.

2. Patrick may have been his only brother. Since Patrick received 1/2 the estate, Michal and Patrick had a close relationship and may have worked together. If they worked together, it would be logical that Michal would leave Patrick the business property, such as equipment, as this would be of no use to the widow.

3. It seems very possible that Michal was a teamster who handled the transshipment of goods brought to New York or Philadelphia by ship. His address in Philadelphia, Front Street, is by the river. Further, this was the occupation of Patrick's family as shown in later records.

4. At this point, Michal and Patrick apparently did not view themselves as immigrants, but rather as ex-patriate workers. I deduce this from the fact that Michal had his family at home in Ireland. Patrick may not have been married when Michal died as Patrick's eldest known child, also Michael, was born 1819/1820.

It should be noted that Michal and Patrick were among the earliest Irish Catholics to come to America. Prior to the American Revolution, Catholicism was suppressed in almost all the colonies. It was felt by English colonists that Catholics would be too sympathetic to England's enemies, Catholic France and Spain.

In light of the freedom of religion enshrined in the new U.S. Constitution and, probably just as important, France's critical military support and Spain's logistical support for the American Revolution, the suppression of the Catholic Church in the United States ended with American independence. So it was that on October 5, 1785 the Spanish ambassador to the United States, Diego de Gardoqui, laid the cornerstone of St. Peter's, 22 Barclay Street, Manhattan, the first Catholic Church in New York State.

What first brought the MacDermot Roe brothers to America?

At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Ireland entered a great period of prosperity due to the need to provide supplies to the British in its long war with France which began following the French Revolution. Additionally, during the 1790's British restrictions on Irish Catholics were eased by new civil rights laws. These were passed to neutralize Ireland's sympathies for France, a fellow Catholic country and now a champion of the rights of man.

It appears that no later than the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Michal and Patrick's family expanded their teamster business from Roscommon to Dublin to take advantage of new opportunities. Among those opportunities would have been working with their cousins the, Dermotts of Ushers' Quay, Dublin apparently a branch of the MacDermots Roe, that established itself as the leading MacDermot merchant family where their extensive operations included the wine trade in France.

Indeed, Michal and Patrick's ancestors might have engaged in the transport business in Dublin and abroad much earlier. The Dermotts appear to have been engaged in international trade in, at least, clothe, from other Dublin locations from the 1500's. As we saw in Chapter 7, *infra*, the Dermotts were established in County Louth, Dublin and, at the same time, continued to have a presence in Emlagh, an area in West Central County Roscommon just north of Roscommon Town.



The Dermotts' international trade operations appear to have reached the United States by 1795 when S. C. (likely Stephen Christopher) Dermott built a flour mill on the Hudson River in West Troy, New York (later Watervliet) at River Road and Mill Street across the river from Troy, New York. See *History of the City of Watervliet*, James T. Meyers, 1910. The Stephen C. Dermotts appearing in the 1870 and 1930 U.S. Censuses, Albany Co, New York are probably his descendants. See Sir Dermot MacDermot, *MacDermot of Moylurg* at page 315 for the original Stephen's place in the family tree of the Dermotts of Usher's Quay.

The family of Michal and Patrick MacDermotRoe, like the Fagans, appear to have had a particular expertise in transporting goods by both land and water over long distances which would include dealing with transshipment issues. Thus, it may be that Michal and Patrick came to America sometime between 1795 and 1808 to transport the Dermotts' mill products from West Troy south to New York City via wagons over land and sloop down the Hudson.

This transshipment of goods would have provided a respectable income since the Hudson River vessels and wagons carried most of the trade between New York City and upstate New York until the advent of the railroads. The nature of the business would explain why, as we shall see, Patrick moved between Troy and New York City.

The only possible further evidence of Patrick's presence in the United States contemporaneous with Michal is an entry in the 1810 U.S. Census. This shows a "Patrick McDermite" listed in New York City's 7<sup>th</sup> Ward, page 168, Image 11 in Ancestry.com online U.S. Census. It may be that Patrick continued the family's business in New York City while Michal found additional work in Philadelphia.

At the time there was a good reason to move a shipping business from New York to Philadelphia. President Thomas Jefferson stopped trade with Great Britain and other belligerents in an effort to keep the United States neutral in the Napoleonic Wars. Consequently, New York's international shipping business went into steep decline in the run-up to what Americans call the War of 1812.

Once that war between the U.S. and Britain began, it would have been impossible for Patrick or Michal to travel between the United States and Ireland as Ireland was then part of the United Kingdom. It is possible that Patrick had returned to Ireland before the War of 1812 and was unable to

join his brother in Philadelphia. Travel restrictions ended in 1815 when a peace treaty was signed between the United States and Great Britain.

Soon after the war ended, we find Patrick as a passenger on the ship *Erin*, John O'Connor, Captain, out of Dublin which arrived at New York City on March 11, 1816. *Ireland: Lists of Passengers Arriving at American Ports Between 1811 and 1817* transcribed from *The Shamrock or Hibernian Chronicle* by Donald M. Schlegel. See, also, *Passengers from Ireland, 1811-1817, Irish Immigrants to North America 1803-1871*, FTM CD#257.

Although Patrick is listed on the manifest without the Roe, we can be fairly certain that it is him. Among the few passengers on the *Erin*, principally a cargo ship, was Richard Fagan. Richard was probably same Richard who was the father of Thomas Fagan, a teamster, who married Patrick's daughter Catherine years later. It seems likely that the two had business and family connections pre-dating their children's marriage. The Fagans, prominent in business in Dublin, like the MacDermots Roe had marriage connections with the O'Conors of Roscommon.

Charles O'Connor of Belanagare (1710 - 1791), the historian and Catholic rights activist, married Catherine Fagan, the daughter of Joseph Fagan, a businessman of Cork and Dublin. Among the numerous O'Connor - MacDermot Roe marriages was the one between Elinor O'Connor, Charles O'Connor's sister and Charles MacDermot Roe of Alderford, Kilronan, Roscommon. Catherine MacDermot Roe's granddaughter, Ursula Simpson Meaney, stated that she was a cousin of the O'Conors although the exact link is not known.

Military records and street directories show that Patrick resided in Troy, New York from, at least, 1830. Union Army records show Patrick's son John was born in Troy on December 4, 1830. Further, Patrick appears in the Troy City directories for the 1830's, a laborer living with his family in Troy's First Ward. The homes, located in the vicinity of the city's attractive Washington Park, are as follows: 128 Second Street, 22 Division Street and 22 Hill Street.

Patrick's move to Troy from New York City may have coincided with the opening of the Erie Canal in the 1820's. As the Erie Canal terminated near Troy, Troy became the center for the transshipment of goods between the canal and New York City.

Patrick was married to Dorothy Irving who like Patrick was probably born in Ireland. As Dorothy was born in 1789/1790, the marriage was probably around 1810. It is not clear if the marriage was in Ireland or the

United States. On Patrick's 1816 trip from Dublin to New York, Dorothy was not with him.

The eldest child of Patrick and Dorothy MacDermotRoe of which there is a record, Michael F. (died Troy, New York, November 20, 1883) was born in late 1819 or 1820. Unfortunately, the only available death record merely bears the entry "US" for Michael's birthplace. This would appear to indicate that he was born in either New York City, Troy or, less likely, Philadelphia.

While all the records agree that the youngest known child John was born in Troy, the records are inconsistent with respect to Patrick and Dorothy's daughter Catherine, the author's ancestor, who was born May 6, 1827. In the 1850 U.S. Census, Catherine gives New York State as her place of birth while subsequent censuses and her death certificate give Ireland as place of birth.

Patrick Irwin (a common alternate spelling of Irving) appears as a grocer in the initial 1827 Troy Directory. In 1827, Patrick Irwin was one of original members of the board of trustees of St. Peter's, Troy's oldest Catholic Church. Patrick Irwin may be the brother of Dorothy whose family, also, belonged to St. Peter's.

Some other important family connections show up in the early Troy records. For example, Cornelius Spain, originally of Tipperary, appears in Troy in 1815. About 1846, Patrick MacDermotRoe's daughter, Catherine, married Denis Spain of Troy. The Spain family remained prominent in the area and Edward Spain became a justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of New York State.

Additionally, there is documentation of two O'Connors in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century Troy. First, there is a LT Bernard O'Connor who married a Mary Kearney on July 26, 1813 as reported in the *Troy Post*. Secondly, there was a Michael O'Connor who died in Troy on or about January 9, 1829 as reported in the *Troy Sentinel*. Michael was a contemporary of Patrick's since another Michael, probably his son, died on or about May 3, 1851 at age 26 as reported in the *Troy Post*.

Despite the fact that Patrick's children Michael and Catherine settled in Troy, it appears that the family moved from Troy to New York City about 1840. This may have been due to the Panic of 1837. New York City recovered from the ensuing depression more quickly than smaller cities like Troy.

Patrick is last listed in Troy as a laborer in the 1839-1840 Troy directory. The next year, Patrick MacDermot, coachman, first appears in the New York City directory of 1841-1842 at 172 Thompson, 3 blocks south of Washington Square Park in Greenwich Village. He is the only Patrick McDermott in that directory. None were listed for 1839-1840.

In the New York City directories of 1842-43 and 1843-44, Patrick McDermott, coachman, is listed at 222 Laurens Street (now West Broadway between Canal Street and the south side of Washington Square Park.) He is not listed after 1844. However, in the 1845-46 New York City Directory we find a Michael McDermott, carman at 54 Anthony Street (now Worth Street, 4 blocks north of Chamber.) This may be Patrick's elder son.

Patrick's locations just south of Washington Square Park were excellent for the coaching business. Washington Square was a new neighborhood with wealthy families in substantial homes fronting the park. Patrick could have easily brought carriages to pick up customers there. Additionally, his business at 222 Thompson was just a few doors from Houston Street, a broad east west thoroughfare that crossed Manhattan.

Patrick's younger son John was, also, in the transport business in Manhattan. John is listed for the first time in the 1853-54 directory as a carman at 84 Varick Street. 84 Varick Street is on the West Side of Lower Manhattan just north of the Canal Street, a major crosstown avenue. At the time, Varick Street was transitioning from a fashionable residential neighborhood to a transportation hub.

Dorothy died in Manhattan, New York City on January 17, 1837 at the age of 47 per the death records of New York City accessed through [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org). Her year of birth is given as 1790, but I think that 1789 is possible as the clerk may have simply subtracted 47 from 1837 without knowing her exact birthday.

It is possible that Dorothy died as the result of complications of child birth. The New York City death records show a baby McDermott aged 0 who died in Manhattan on January 15, 1837, two days before Dorothy. The father's name was Patrick. As no first name of gender are shown for the baby, it appears that the baby was stillborn or died soon after birth.

New York City death records show a Patrick McDermott who died on September 22, 1849 at the age of 66. He would be the right age to be Dorothy's husband. Although Patrick appears to have used the Roe socially, it is not surprising that it does appear in the record.

Patrick may have been a victim of the 1849 cholera epidemic in New York City. It was in response to that epidemic that the Sisters of Charity of New York founded St. Vincent's Hospital on West 13<sup>th</sup> Street on Manhattan, a major hospital today. On the death record, Patrick's address is 75 Georick Street in Manhattan. Georick Street, which no longer exists, ran from Grand Street to East Third Street.

What can we say of the Irish ancestry of Patrick MacDermotRoe and Dorothy Irving?

There is no definitive answer. However, the available evidence suggests that Patrick and Dorothy both came from Emlagh area of central County Roscommon described in Chapter 7, *infra*.

First, both the MacDermots Roe and the Irvings/Irwins were thick upon the ground in Emlagh in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. While the MacDermot Roe base was in Kilronan, the MacDermot Roe branch in Emlagh, 28 miles to the south was, both, numerous and prosperous. Additionally, a majority of the Irvings of County Roscommon lived in Emlagh. The small Irving branch in the Boyle area closer to Kilronan was Protestant.

Second, both were Catholic and traveled in the same social circles. This is evident from the fact the two families were included among a small group of prominent Catholics whose views were solicited in a 1748 postulation regarding the appointment of the next Bishop of Elphin Diocese.

Third, the MacDermotsRoe and Irwins of Emlagh intermarried during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The will of Edward Irwin of Oran, dated June 26, 1734, proved September 6, 1734 states that his daughter Mary was married to John McDermot - by location I presume a MacDermotRoe. And in 1788, Elizabeth MacDermotRoe married J. Irwin in Elphin Diocese.

The Oran connection is particularly interesting as a Michael MacDermot Roe was the parish priest for the Roman Catholic parish of Oran in 1756. The Irvings/Irwins were well established in Oran and the neighboring parishes. Thus, the continuing intermarriage of the Irwins and MacDermots Roe, two of Emlagh's most prominent Catholic families, is not surprising.

Fourth, if Patrick's family, like the Dermotts of Usher's Quay was based in Emlagh, it explains why the two families might have had a longstanding business relationship. Who would be more trustworthy in ensuring the safe arrival of valuable goods traveling to distant destinations than a cousin from your own area?

In searching the MacDermots Roe of Emlagh for a possible ancestor of Patrick, my attention is drawn to an earlier Patrick MacDermot Roe. He is Patrick, a brother of Michael MacDermot Roe of Castlemehen, named in Michael's 1732 will. The fact that Patrick was named in the 1732 will indicates that he was alive in 1732 and likely a younger brother.

Another possible ancestor of Dorothy's Patrick is Michael's nephew Thomas MacDermot Roe of Castlemehen, flourished 1749, to whom Michael left the estate. It seems likely that Thomas would have named one of his many children, Michael, after his uncle.

And there was the Michael McDermott, died January 20, 1800, buried at Ballintober Old Graveyard with his wife Catherine, died April 25, apparently the same year. Although there is no Roe, his location in the same graveyard with Owen McDermottroe, flourished 1600's, indicates that Michael was likely a MacDermot Roe and possibly a descendant of Owen. Owen we theorized may be a brother of Terence McDermott, Senior, Lord Mayor of Dublin 1689, who had a substantial financial interest in Ballintober through a mortgage on O'Connor property there. Terence was knighted by King James II as Sir Terence of Ballintober.

Michael, died 1800, would be the right age to be the father of Patrick, born 1782/1783 who married Dorothy Irving. The name Michael was strong in Patrick's family. Patrick's brother was Michal/Michael, died in Philadelphia in 1813, and Patrick named his oldest known son Michael. Further, Patrick named his only known daughter, Catherine, perhaps after the wife of Michael, died 1800.

And Irwins were, also, interred at Ballintober Old, located between the Irwin families of Baslick and Drumatemple Parishes. For example, there is a mausoleum erected 1799 for Denis O'Connor of Willsbrook and his wife Sarah Irwin. *Timoney, supra*, page 183. Denis O'Connor was a descendant of Owen O'Connor of Corrasduna, died 1766, who married Catherine, the daughter of Edmond MacDermot Roe of Emlagh. See Chapter 7, *infra*.

These possibilities for Patrick's ancestry are speculative based on the inconclusive available evidence. And even if Michael, died 1800 were Patrick's father and he descended from a brother of Michael of Castlemehen, there would still be a generation missing. However, the suggested connections provide a working theory which can be a basis for further research.

Among the likely ancestors for Dorothy among the Emlagh Irwins are John Irwin of Oran, Oran Civil Parish, John Irwin of Leabeg, Drumatemple

Civil Parish or John Irwin of Emlagh, Baslick Civil Parish since Dorothy named her younger son John. The Johns of Oran and Leabeg are among the prominent Catholics whose views were sought on the next for Bishop of Elphin in a 1748 Postulation.

All three John Irwins appear in the Elphin Census of 1749. Their details were follows: John of Oran, Catholic, farmer, 7 servants, no children at home, John of Leabeg, Catholic, gentleman, 5 servants, 4 children and John of Emlagh, Protestant, farmer, 3 servants, 8 children. From the number of servants, the three appear to have been affluent. The "servants" may include employees who worked the farm.

Like Thomas MacDermotRoe of Castlemehen, the Irwins may have made money in business in Dublin and invested the profits in property in the Emlagh area of County Roscommon. Thomas was shown in the Elphin Census (without the Roe) as Catholic, farmer, 11 servants with 2 children over 14. I suspect Thomas had other, older children who lived elsewhere.

Although John of Emlagh was a Protestant, he can't be ruled out as an ancestor of Dorothy. During the worst of Penal Laws in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, many Catholics conformed to gain their civil rights but reverted to Catholicism as the penalties eased later in the century. A real estate transaction records shows John Irwin of Emlagh in 1795, perhaps the son of the John in the 1749 Census.

Could Patrick, husband of Dorothy Irving, be Lieutenant Patrick MacDermot Roe who served briefly in Dillon's Regiment and the 99<sup>th</sup> Regiment (Prince of Wales Tipperary), of the British Army?

While we can't definitively answer the question, it is possible. Consider the following:

As described in Chapter 7, *infra*, on the MacDermots Roe of Emlagh, Lieutenant Patrick was close in age to Dorothy's Patrick who, it appears, was born 1782/1783 in Ireland and died in New York City possibly in 1849. Lieutenant Patrick served in Dillon's with a Fagan showing another connection there. And Lieutenant Patrick left the army shortly before Dorothy's Patrick starts appearing in New York.

Perhaps on the disbandment of Dillon's Regiment in 1798, Patrick returned to Roscommon or Dublin and worked in the family's shipping business. When Patrick was called back to serve as a Lieutenant with the 99<sup>th</sup> Regiment, he was established in his new career. Returning to the service at that point would not have been very attractive, especially when he

learned that the 99<sup>th</sup> was being sent to Bermuda, then a death trap for infectious disease.

So Patrick stayed with his civilian career, most likely in Dublin - possibly working for the Dermotts of Usher's Quay and other socially connected families like the Fagans. Though working in Dublin, he would have maintained his social base in Emlagh. My guess is that he married Dorothy Irving about 1810 when the Irish economy was booming as a supplier of materials to the British Army during the Napoleonic Wars.

After the Napoleonic War ended in 1815 at Waterloo, the Irish economy like the British economy went into depression. Thus, it was logical for Patrick, who had experience in business in the United States, to again look across the Atlantic for opportunities. And so we find him in 1816 on the ship *Erin* out of Dublin, sailing to New York City to start a new life in America.



## *Chapter 14*

# *Children of Patrick MacDermot Roe and Dorothy Irving*

As noted in the previous chapter, Patrick MacDermot Roe and Dorothy Irving had three known children, Michael F. (1819/1820 - November 20, 1883, Troy, New York), Catherine (May 8, 1827 - January 8, 1916, Troy, New York) and John (December 4, 1830, Troy, New York - 1906, New York, New York).

Michael's birthplace is uncertain. The Troy Burial Records only give his birthplace as "US". It would not appear that he was born in Troy as that would have been noted by the Troy recording official.

Michael would have lived in Troy until his teens when the family moved to New York City. It seems likely that he learned the teamster business from his father and worked with Patrick in New York City during his early adult years.

In 1850, we find Michael, now 30 and single, living in Troy with his sister Catherine who had been recently widowed with the death of her first husband, Denis Spain. When Catherine remarried Thomas Fagan, Michael set up his own residence in Troy and worked as a teamster/laborer. A later Troy directory shows his home at 150 Ninth Street, near the house of his sister Catherine who lived with Thomas on Eagle Street, corner of Ninth. In 1883, the last year of his life, he moved in with his sister Catherine and Thomas at 311 Tenth Street.

As a teamster in Troy, it is possible that Michael worked for his brother-in-law Thomas Fagan. Fagan had a flourishing business handling the transshipment of goods from the Erie Canal to sloops going down the Hudson River to New York City.

Michael's obituary reads:

"Michael F. McDermott, a well known and greatly respected citizen, died (Nov. 20, 1883) at the residence of his sister Mrs. Thomas Fagan, 311 Tenth Street, yesterday, aged 63 years. Mr. McDermott was the uncle of E. (Edward) J. Spain and of Walter J. Fagan. His funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock from his sister's residence."

The obituary and census records tend to indicate that Michael never married. E. J. Spain was Catherine's son by Denis Spain while Walter J. Fagan was one of her children by Thomas Fagan.

Similarly, there is uncertainty as to the birthplace of Catherine. In the 1850 U.S. Census, she told the Census taker that she was born in New York State. However, later censuses and her death certificate give her birthplace as Ireland.

It appears Catherine spent her early childhood years in Troy. She was perhaps 8 or 9 years old when the family moved to New York. Presumably they lived somewhere near Greenwich Village's Washington Square Park to be near Patrick's carriage business.

Catherine was only 9 years old when her mother Dorothy died. If, as the records suggest, Dorothy died in childbirth, it may have influenced Catherine's decision to train as a nurse midwife, her lifetime profession. Perhaps Dorothy had been a midwife too. The Irwins had a strong medical tradition going back to Christopher Irwin, physician to England's King Charles II.

Family oral tradition states that Catherine worked for some time in the household of a wealthy New York City family, perhaps as a baby nurse, prior to her first marriage. If a family had sufficient means, it would have been desirable for the nurse to move in with the family prior to the birth and remain sometime after to assist the mother. Catherine continued a close relationship with this family throughout her life visiting the family when she was in New York City to see her brother John and perhaps other as yet unidentified siblings.

Catherine moved back to Troy, New York in the late 1840's where she married Denis Spain. Denis died only about 2 years after he married Catherine leaving her with an infant son, Edward. It was her sudden widowhood that may have prompted her older brother, Michael, to return to Troy in order to support her and the baby.

Catherine was well known in Troy as a midwife in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is not known when she studied for this occupation, but she may have begun to study midwifery as a teen while living in New York City. Perhaps she had some nurse training with the Sisters of Charity of New York, the Catholic religious order that in 1849 founded St. Vincent's Hospital at a location near the Catherine's New York City home.

Not long after the death of her first husband Denis Spain, Catherine married Thomas Fagan, a teamster of about 30. He may have taken over the successful teamster operation of an older relation, Barton Fagan who appears in the 1850 U.S. Census with a fair net worth. Additionally, Thomas was an officer in Troy's militia company and the rounder of the city's night watch.

Thomas Fagan was the son of Richard Fagan probably the Richard Fagan who traveled with Patrick MacDermotRoe on the ship *Erin* to New York City in 1816. Since the *Erin* was intended primarily for the carriage of goods, not immigrants, it is possible that the two worked together in the shipping/teamster business.

According to family oral history, Richard Fagan was from Cork, where a branch of the Fagan's of Feltrim, north of Dublin, was established by the 1400's. The Fagan's of Cork called their seat Feltrim after the earlier established Fagan seat just north of Dublin. However, it appears from the *Erin's* records that, both, Patrick and Richard were working out of Dublin.

A branch of the Fagans flourished near Boyle, County Roscommon in the 18<sup>th</sup> century where they, also, called their seat Feltrim. The Fagans of Boyle owned a lime kiln. Since the MacDermots Roe of this period had iron foundries not far from Boyle in Kilronan, it is possible that the Fagan's supplied lime to the MacDermots Roe for the foundries. Patrick's family may have been involved in transporting the Fagan's lime.

It could, also, be that Patrick and Richard met in Dublin where they both had relocated for work. Joseph Fagan, a successful businessman from Cork, had established operations in Dublin in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and his daughter married Charles O'Connor, the historian from Roscommon. Charles' sister, Eleanor, married a MacDermotRoe, Charles of Alderford, Kilronan.

Catherine had four children with Thomas Fagan. Thomas, born 1849/1850 who died in early childhood, Mary Jane, born August 1855 who died unmarried December 4, 1880, and Henriette Elizabeth (1857-1939) ancestor of the author after whom the author's mother was named and

Walter J. born 1862, died about July 11, 1921. Walter like his half-brother Edward Spain was a contractor in Troy.

In addition to raising children, Catherine was very busy as a midwife throughout her long life. One interesting family anecdote evidences both her work and her character.

During the Civil War, the federal government attempted to draft into the Union army a young man who Catherine helped birth as midwife. According to the author's grandmother, Catherine felt strongly that the boy should not be taken as he was somewhat feeble minded and would be destroyed by the war experience. To protect the boy, Catherine hid him from the authorities in her house.

At the time, Catherine's husband was an officer in the New York State militia - perhaps the commander in Troy. Since the country was at war, Catherine and Thomas undertook a great risk in protecting the young man. The incident demonstrates Catherine's courage and compassion. I think it, also, reflects well on the character of Thomas Fagan as his approval was doubtless necessary.

Thomas Fagan had by his early 30's established himself as a business, civic and military leader in Troy, New York one of the country's fastest growing industrial centers in the Northeast. Fagan's role in all these areas is reflected in his obituary from the *Troy Northern Budget* of August 30, 1891:

*"Thomas Fagan, a citizen of Troy for more than fifty years, died Wednesday last. In the days before the advent of railroads, when the docks of this city were lined with schooners, sloops and barges laden with merchandise for transshipment, he had many teams and a large number of men engaged in handling freight for shippers, and also had charge of the iron works teaming for some time. Mr. Fagan was an officer of the Republican Guards, a famous local military company, thirty-five years ago of which General (Joseph) Carr, Major Timothy Quinn (Troy Sheriff), Edmund Stanton, John Stanton and other prominent citizens were members. Before Troy had a uniformed police force the peace of the city during the night hours was looked after by the old "night watch" of which body Mr. Fagan was rounder. In every walk of life, the deceased was well respected and had a host of warm and earnest friends. He leaves a wife (Catherine MacDermotRoe), a son W(alter) J. Fagan, a daughter Mrs. Timothy Simpson (Henriette Elizabeth) and a stepson, Edward (J.) Spain. The funeral was largely attended. The following were bearers: Edmund Stanton, Michael Allen, Timothy Quinn, Patrick Burns, Edward Bolton, John Stanton, Joseph A'Hearn and Thomas Denny."*

When one looks at Troy today, it is hard to visualize the city in its heyday. However, Troy's dramatic rise to prosperity in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was due to its key location at the terminus of the Erie Canal.

Troy, founded in 1787, was not a particularly old town as compared to neighboring upstate New York cities. Schenectady, for example, founded in 1661 bears an ancient Dutch history comparable to New York City.

What caused Troy to take off in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century was its strategic location at the end of the Erie Canal. The Erie Canal, one of the greatest public work projects in American history, began operating from the Great Lakes in the West to Troy on the Hudson River in the 1820's. Troy became, not only, the transshipment point for goods from the west going down the Hudson River, but also, a booming industrial center dominating iron manufacturing before the rise of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania at the turn of the century.

Thomas Fagan as a leading teamster in Troy played a key role in the rise of Troy. It appears that his expertise as a teamster involved moving goods from water to land transport and back again. This, also, appears to have been the expertise of his father Richard and his father-in-law Patrick MacDermotRoe who worked with goods transported between Dublin and New York/Philadelphia in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Thomas' business was particularly strong before the Civil War. That's because the sole economical means of getting goods from Troy to New York City was via ships down the Hudson River. Later on, he undoubtedly lost business to the railroad.

In addition to being a prominent businessman, Fagan was leader in civic and military affairs. As the rounder of the Troy night watch, predecessor to the paid police, Thomas was the last person in the nightly watch to make his rounds. He was entrusted with great responsibility in protecting the people of the town - evidence of, both, his physical bravery and trustworthiness.

As noted in the obituary from before the Civil War, Thomas was an officer in a local militia company known as the Troy Republican Guards, a unit of the 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the New York State Militia. While many members of the Regiment mustered into the New York State Volunteer's, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment for active duty during the Civil War, Thomas remained in Troy with his unit.

Family oral history states that during the war Thomas was commander of the militia remaining in Troy charged with the defense of the city. The author's mother stated that Thomas' militia duty included surveillance of the Hudson River in the Troy area against possible Confederate raiders. The Confederate threat was real since in 1864 Confederate soldiers raided St. Albans, Vermont in an effort to compel the Federals to divert their troops from the South to the North.

Thomas' militia duty during the Civil War may have been a part time responsibility. As Troy was an important manufacturer of and depot for Union war materials, Thomas, in his civilian capacity, would have been very busy facilitating the movement of these materials down the Hudson to New York City for distribution to the Union army.

As a member of the Troy militia before the Civil War, Thomas served with some prominent individuals. Among them was LTC Charles MacArthur, Quartermaster of the 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment. A newspaper publisher in Troy, he is believed to be related to the MacArthurs of Massachusetts whose descendants included World War II's General Douglas MacArthur. General MacArthur dated Thomas' granddaughter Edna Simpson Lynd.

Another fellow officer and friend was the regiment's commander, COL Joseph B. Carr (1828-1895). Carr became the commander of the NYSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment when it was mustered into federal service at the beginning of the Civil War. He fought at many important battles of the war and was wounded at Gettysburg. He eventually commanded a division and ended the war as a Major General.

After the war, Carr returned to Troy where he went into manufacturing. Active in Republican politics, Carr served as New York Secretary of State and ran for Lieutenant Governor. Carr remained active in the militia and was eventually appointed commander of the entire New York State Militia.

After Thomas Fagan died, Catherine moved in with her daughter Henriette, known as "Nettie", and her family. She lived on the top floor and helped take care of the housework and children when she was not working as a midwife. Sometimes she would leave the home to temporarily live with an expectant mother and the new born baby that she delivered.

Among Nettie's children was Ursula, known as "Pansy", the author's maternal grandmother, who came to be very close to her grandmother Catherine. Pansy would sometimes travel with New York to visit family. This

probably would have been Catherine's brother John MacDermot who lived with his family in Manhattan. John did not use the Roe in his surname.

Catherine was apparently still practicing as a midwife in Troy in her late 80's as she examined Ursula's ailing first born, Michael (nicknamed "Snooky") who died from tuberculosis in early 1916. She had to break the bad news to Ursula that the baby would not survive.

Catherine predeceased Snooky by a few weeks dying on January 8, 1916 at the age of 88. After Snooky died, grieving Pansy had Catherine's coffin opened so that the baby could be buried in her arms.

Among the genealogical information saved by Catherine and passed on to the author by his grandmother Pansy was the death notice of Catherine's brother John MacDermot who died in New York City in 1906 and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Bronx, New York. With the cemetery information, the author, his wife Bonnie, and their three children journeyed to Woodlawn to see what they might turn up.

At Woodlawn, we found John's tombstone with that of his wife, daughters and in-laws. John's tombstone bore some extremely valuable genealogical information. In addition to his dates (1830-1906), his tombstone shows that he was a "Lieut. N.Y.F.D." and that he was a "Private Co. I, 11th Regt., Ellsworth's Zouaves". The tombstone, also, bears the masonic sign, a "G" surrounded by masons tools indicating that John was a freemason. With these clues, we were able to uncover John's very eventful life.

From John's Civil War military pension records, we learned the details of his birth. He was young child, perhaps 9 or 10, when the family moved to New York City. He was to remain there for the rest of his life except for his army service during the Civil War.

John followed his father Patrick's line of work. In the 1860-1861 *Trow's New York City Directory*, John is listed as a carman, another term for teamster, at 113 Clinton Street. 113 Clinton, now a parking lot, was well placed for a carman/teamster. Located on the southeast corner of Clinton and Delancy Street, it is a couple of blocks from the East River where international ships docked. John probably moved goods to and from the docks along Delancy, a large east-west Manhattan avenue.

The 1860 U.S. Census shows John living in this area with his wife Margaret (20) and daughter Eloise (2). Living nearby was Michael Irving, a carman John's age. It is possible that Michael was a close cousin on his

mother's side who worked with him in the teamster business. A review of entries in John's neighborhood area show that it was middle class - mostly native born business people, a lawyer, and, interestingly, no Irish surnamed families other than John's.

John's wife Margaretta was the daughter of Joseph Cherry, a machinist, a fairly new profession for his generation. Joseph was married to Jane C., and Margaretta, born 1839, was the youngest of four children. Joseph was fairly prosperous as he reported a net worth of \$2,000 in the 1860 U.S. Census.

Joseph Cherry, born in Ireland in 1795, was like Patrick MacDermotRoe among the pre-famine immigrants to the U.S. He appears in the 1820 U.S. Census in New York City's 5<sup>th</sup> Ward.

While John made his living as a carman, he was, also, a volunteer fireman in New York City. It is hard to believe that the Fire Department in a city as large as New York was all volunteer until after the Civil War but that was the case. Membership in the New York City Volunteer Fire Department was like joining an exclusive club. The organization was famous throughout the country for its esprit and gallantry.

John may have belonged to the firehouse known as Hook and Ladder 11 located at 180 Clinton Street. This would have been very close to his residence and business. Additionally, volunteer firemen of Hook and Ladder 11 were among those who enlisted in Company I of the Fire Zouaves, John's military unit. This volunteer company preceded his post-war paid company, Hook and Ladder 6, also, at 180 Clinton Street. The firehouse was moved to Canal Street in 1968.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Colonel Elmer Ellsworth (1837-1861), a militia leader from Chicago and a close personal friend of Abraham Lincoln, came to New York City to organize a new regiment to fight for the Union. Ellsworth had pioneered the popular Zouave military style in the United States through his nationally famous Zouave drill unit.

Coming to New York City, Ellsworth looked to the New York City Volunteer Firemen to man his new regiment. He said: "I want the New York Firemen for my Regiment for there are none with which I can accomplish so much."

On April 20, 1861, John and his fellow firemen were enlisted by Colonel Ellsworth in the New York City Fire Zouaves at the New York State arsenal located at 35th Street and 7th Avenue in Manhattan. The new



regiment recruited by Ellsworth from the New York City firemen was the first regiment organized in response to President Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers following the April 13, 1861 fall of Fort Sumter. Officially designated the 11th New York State Volunteer Infantry, it was always known as Ellsworth's Fire Zouaves.

The regiment was recruited from the 4,000 volunteers of the 123 firehouses in New York City. While an incredible 2,000 volunteered, only 1100, including John MacDermot were enlisted in the new regiment.

Each company of the regiment was associated with a firehouse whose members provided its soldiers. Company I soldiers came primarily from Engine 11, Hose 15. The soldiers wore the mottos of their fire companies, "Oceanus" for Engine 11 and "Atlantic" for Hose 15 emblazoned on their belts. The Captain of Company I was Jack Wildey, foreman of Engine 11. Engine 11, known as Oceanus, was located at Wooster Street, near Prince and had about 60 members mostly mechanics. *The History of the New York Fire Departments, 1609-1887*, Augustine E. Costello, 1887.

The gravestone of John's elder daughter, Eloise shows that she was born August 16, 1859, and died Jan 29, 1899. We may assume that John and his wife Margaretta B. Cherry who was born January 9, 1840 were married in 1858. Thus, on his enlistment John was leaving a wife and 20 month old daughter behind. This sacrifice demonstrates the patriotic fervor that swept the country at the beginning of the Civil War.

Because of Ellsworth's close connection to Lincoln and because of the fame of the New York City Volunteer Fire Department, the new regiment immediately caught the public's attention. Many newspaper articles were written about the regiment and a song was composed for it, *Abraham's Daughter* by Septimus Winner. The song was performed in the musical *Reunion* produced at the Theatre Row Theatre, New York City in 1999.

After a few days drilling on Canal Street, the Fire Zouaves were ordered to Washington, D.C. On April 29, 1861, they paraded down Broadway in their new French style uniforms of short blue jackets, red shirts, baggy red pants and kepi hats and boarded the south bound ships.

Arriving in Washington they were personally greeted by President Lincoln. At first they were housed in the U.S. Capitol where they slept on benches in the House of Representatives. Secretary of State John Hay described the Fire Zouaves as "a jolly, gay set of blackguards" who "were in a pretty complete state of don't care a damn, modified by an affectionate and respectful deference to their Colonel."

On May 9, 1861, a fire threatened to engulf Washington's famous Willard Hotel. Although the local firemen did not respond, the First Fire Zouaves, still in the city while awaiting deployment, immediately arrived. With borrowed equipment, the New York City volunteer firemen turned soldiers quickly put out the fire.

Their heroism was depicted in a print in the May 25, 1861 edition of *Harper's Weekly*. The picture shows that the New Yorkers, lacking ladders, formed human pyramids to scale the outside of the hotel. As guests of the grateful proprietor, Joseph Willard, the Zouaves later breakfasted among the City's elite.

On May 24, 1861, the Fire Zouaves crossed the Potomac to capture Alexandria, Virginia. When Colonel Ellsworth saw a Confederate flag flying from Alexandria's Marshall Hotel, he determined to haul it down. Ascending to the hotel's roof, Ellsworth brought down the flag. As he and a detachment were descending the stair, they were met by the hotel's owner James W. Jackson who shot Ellsworth with his shotgun killing the colonel instantly. Jackson, in turn, was shot by Corporal Francis E. Brownwell, a native of Troy, New York.

With the death of Ellsworth, the nation had its first martyr in the war. Devastated by the loss of his young friend, Lincoln ordered that Ellsworth's body lie in state in the East Room of the White House. Ellsworth was buried in his hometown, Mechanicville, New York, near Troy. Coincidentally, this is the birthplace of the author's maternal grandfather, Michael J. Meaney who married Ursula (Pansy) Simpson, Catherine's granddaughter.

With the cry "On to Richmond", the Union Army, including the Fire Zouaves under their new commander Lt. Colonel Noah L. Farnham, advanced further into Virginia. On July 18, 1861, the Union and Confederate armies met at Bull Run in what was to be the first major battle of the Civil War. It was to be the first and last battle for John's regiment.

While the Union Army had the advantage early in the battle, the tide turned as Confederate reinforcements arrived via railroad. The turning point in the battle came as the Union Army's Rickett's Battery moved forward to threaten a vulnerable Confederate position. The Fire Zouaves were ordered to defend the battery.

Recognizing the danger represented by the Union battery, Confederate General Thomas Jackson ordered an attack. His infantry volleys tore into the Zouave ranks. This onslaught was followed by a cavalry attack led by

Confederate Colonel Jeb Stuart in which the Zouaves sustained casualties of almost 425 killed, wounded and missing. Decimated, the Zouaves retreated and the battery fell to the Confederates. Among the mortally wounded was Farnham, who was assisted off the field by Capt. Jack Wildey and some of his men.

Jackson, later Lee's most valued general, was to earn the nickname "Stonewall" for his performance at Bull Run while Stuart was to become the colorful leader of Lee's cavalry. In one of life's ironies, the author and his son Marchand were to meet Jeb's descendant, Jeb Stuart IV, after his presentation to the Stamford, Connecticut Civil War Roundtable in 2,000.

Although the Fire Zouaves ceased to function as a regiment after this encounter, the battle was not over for John. Under their leader Captain Wildey, Company I regrouped. They counterattacked and fought alongside the famous 69<sup>th</sup> New York, the Irish Brigade. When the Confederates captured the flag of the beleaguered Irish Brigade, Captain Wildey and his men recaptured the green flag. Although the battle was lost, John and his comrades retired from the field with honor. An account of this action in the battle is set forth in Costello's *History of the New York Fire Departments*.

The mauled Fire Zouaves were never to fight again. Soon after Bull Run, they returned to New York City. During the latter part of 1861 and early 1862 the regiment was stationed at Newport News, Virginia. The men of the Fire Zouaves were mustered out on June 2, 1862.

Included in John's pension files at the U.S. National Archives is a medical report dated December 4, 1861. The report shows that shortly after Bull Run John developed an eye abscess which rendered him unfit for further service. This abscess was the beginning of a deterioration in John's vision which would eventually lead to almost complete blindness. Contracting such an ailment was an unfortunate consequence of the unsanitary conditions which soldiers in the field endured.

Since John's second daughter, Carrie V. was born October 18, 1862, he must have returned to his family in New York City soon after his December 4, 1861 medical exam. Carrie died unmarried March 3, 1897. John and his daughters are buried in a family plot in Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, New York.

In the fall of 1865, the New York City Volunteer Fire Department was replaced by a paid, professional department. John went to work full time for the new Fire Department and served with Hook and Ladder Company No. 6. He eventually rose to rank of Lieutenant in the Fire Department.

Hook and Ladder Co. No.6 was organized September 27, 1865. It was located at 180 Clinton Street, a short walk from John's house. The company occupied the old quarters of volunteer Harry Howard Hook and Ladder No. 11. No. 6 had a truck built by C. E. Hartshorn in 1862. See *Costello*, Chapter 48, Part VIII. On May 6, 1968, Hook and Ladder Number 6 was located at 75 Canal Street.

John was among those cited for bravery in the Roll of Merit for his actions in fighting a fire that occurred on September 26, 1870 at 26 Montgomery Street. Companies of Battalion A of the Fire Department including John's Company A responded to the fire at this apartment building. The firemen rescued several residents from the fire. John was among three from his company who were singled out for bravery. Another member of No. 6 honored was William F. Craft. His relation, possibly a son, Cornelius J. Craft married John's daughter, Eloise. See *Costello's History of the New York Fire Departments*, Chapter 52, Part I.

The New York City Directory of 1876-7, Lawrence Goulding, publisher, shows that John, fireman, lived with his family at 7 Rutgers Street, Manhattan.

On the website of the New York City Fire Department, there is a photo of the members of Hook and Ladder Number 6 in front of their horse drawn ladder vehicle. There are 12 firemen in the photo including two on the vehicle. Presumably, this was the entire company. They appear to have been turned out for a parade.

Since the vehicle is horse drawn the photo must be before World War I. A reasonable guess is about 1890. It is possible that John is in the photo although he may have been retired at the time that the photo was taken. The original photo is at the George F. Mand Library, NYFD Fire Academy, Randall's Island, New York.

John and his sister Catherine MacDermotRoe Fagan of Troy remained close throughout their lives. She occasionally visited him in New York City, sometimes in the company of her granddaughter, Ursula ("Pansy") Simpson Meaney. The author has a photograph of Catherine taken circa 1900 in New York City when she, and perhaps Pansy, were visiting John.

With John's death in 1906 the MacDermotRoe line represented by Patrick MacDermotRoe and his brother Michal (died 1813 without male issue) went extinct to the extent that no descendant had the surname. The surname was revived by the author, his wife and children pursuant to a

name change order of the New York State Supreme Court, New York County, April 2, 1997, by Justice Helen Freedman, Index No. 97/105886.

Since Michael had no children, and any descendants of John's daughter, Eloise, are not known, we follow this line with the descendants of Catherine MacDermotRoe and her husband, Thomas Fagan.

## *Chapter 15*

### *Revival of a MacDermotRoe Branch*

The surname MacDermotRoe, which had ended in Patrick MacDermotRoe's line with the death in 1906 of his son John, was revived by his descendant Kenneth Arthur Thomas, the author, by an order of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County, Justice Helen Freedman, dated April 2, 1997, Index Number 97/105886. Kenneth's wife, Bonnie and their three children: Marchand, Dolley and Conor, also, revived the surname MacDermotRoe.

As previously noted, the appellation Roe, meaning "red", was expressed as a separate word. This led to much confusion outside northern Roscommon as to whether the surname was MacDermot or Roe. This was a major reason why the appellation fell into disuse. As the appellation fell into disuse, MacDermot Roe descendants over a few generations generally lost their distinct identity and merged with the general MacDermot Clan.

Consequently, the author revived the surname as one word, "MacDermotRoe", with three capital letters. The use of a capital "R" emphasizes the fact that Roe is a separate word describing this branch of the larger MacDermot Clan. However, eliminating the space between MacDermot and Roe insures that modern record keepers will not mistake the Roe for the surname.

Kenneth's descent from Patrick and Dorothy MacDermotRoe was matrilineal through their daughter Catherine and her second husband Thomas Fagan. The revival of a branch of an ancient Irish family by a matrilineal descendant has precedents. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, matrilineal descendants in the O'Neil and O'Hara Clans legally changed their surnames in order to revive their branches.

Among the children of Thomas Fagan and Catherine MacDermot Roe was Henriette Elizabeth Fagan (1857-1939), the great grandmother of the author. The author descends from Henriette who married Timothy Simpson through their daughter Ursula Bertha Simpson Meaney (1885-1974) who

married Michael J. Meaney and whose children included his mother, Henriette Elizabeth Meaney, born 1916, who married William Theodore Thomas.

Oral history indicates that Henriette, the elder, known as Nettie, was brought up in fairly affluent circumstances. She was given piano and French lessons. The home environment was religious as her mother was very active in Troy's St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church. Patrick Irwin, a founding trustee of St. Peter's in 1827, may have been the brother of her maternal grandmother Dorothy Irving.

About 1877, Nettie married, Timothy Simpson (born May 4, 1840, Athlone, Ireland, died December 25, 1919, Troy, New York). Timothy's first wife Mary McNameny had died soon after the birth of their daughter Molly.

Timothy Simpson was the son of William Simpson (born about 1790, probably England, died about 1846, Athlone, Ireland) and Elizabeth Martin (born 1801 Ireland, died October 22, 1887, Troy, New York) of Athlone, County Westmeath, Ireland. Oral tradition is that Simpson was an English born Protestant who served in the British Army.

William who appears to have been old enough to have served in the Napoleonic Wars may have been stationed in Ireland after the war ended in 1815. He married Elizabeth Martin soon thereafter as there first known child, John, was born in Athlone in 1820. It is likely that William Simpson was a grocer as this was the business that John took up when he arrived in Troy in the late 1840's.

It appears that William Simpson was a fairly prosperous grocer. The author has a photo of his house in Athlone taken in the late 1800's by one of his daughter's on a visit to Ireland. The ivy covered house is made of stone, has two chimneys, many rooms and is set off with attractive shrubbery.

William died in Ireland. When? The last known child of William and Elizabeth was Patrick J. (born 1844, Ireland, died in 1876, Troy, New York) as shown on an inscription on his memorial stone in St. Peter's cemetery, Troy, New York which reads:

"Erected by Elizabeth Simpson in memory of her son Patrick J. Nov 26, 1876 aged 32."

So we can place William's death as between 1844 and about 1848 when his family came to Troy.

It appears that William's eldest son, John, who was in his late 20's when he came to Troy, established himself in the poultry business. He soon was joined by Elizabeth and her children, including 8 year old Timothy.

In the 1860 U.S. Census, Timothy is listed as an employee at a hotel in Troy. During the Civil War, he worked in one of Troy's busy cannon factories. After the war, he went into the tavern business.

Timothy's business timing was excellent. In the post-Civil War era, Troy was at its peak as a manufacturing center and Timothy's tavern located on Troy's principle commercial avenue, Hoosick Street, was crowded with customers.

It is hard to imagine that Troy, New York was such an important city in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in view of its small size today. But consider that the first small group of major league baseball teams included the National League's Troy Trojans. The team played in Troy for four seasons, 1879-1882. When the Trojans disbanded, some of the players moved to New York City to play with a new National League franchise, the New York Giants. In the 1950's the Giants moved to San Francisco.

So one can imagine a bustling tavern where customers, including major league baseball players and fans, dined and drank. According to Pansy, it was a respectable establishment where women were welcome. However, Nettie, a bit of a snob, forbade her children from working there as she thought the business was beneath them. The children were not even allowed to frequent the tavern to visit their father.

Nonetheless, the marriage was a happy one. Both loved children. Timothy had 10 children in addition to his daughter Molly. Their lifestyle was comfortable although as Pansy remarked, things got a little tight when the last 2 children, twins Kenneth and Leslie, were born.

Nettie was extravagant. According to Ursula, when Nettie went to the department store, the staff would basically shut down other selling to focus on her. Timothy seems to have viewed all this in a very tolerant way.

Ursula acknowledged that she and the sisters were spoiled. Ursula relates that when she was a young child she did not like her new pair of shoes so she tossed them into the fireplace. Timothy observed to her that someday she might not have money to throw away. Eighty years later, Pansy remarked to the author wryly, "He was right".



The children of Timothy and Nettie were Catherine (Kitty) (born about 1879), Clara (born 1881 died unmarried circa 1970), William (born 1883, died unmarried 1960's), Ursula Bertha (Pansy) (born July 28, 1885 Troy, New York, died March 16, 1974, Schenectady, New York), the author's grandmother, Elizabeth (Bessie) (born 1895), the author's baptismal sponsor, Edna born (1891), Walter, who died as a young child and twins Kenneth Walter (baptized Thomas) and Leslie Irving (baptized John) (born 1897).

The eldest child, Catherine (Kitty), who was named after her grandmother Catherine MacDermot Roe, married William Guy, son of Addison. William Guy was an executive at a Troy collar manufacturing business, a large employer at the time. They had two sons, Addison and Kenneth. Both died unmarried.

Clara, the family intellectual, was sent to private school. Clara was generally excused from helping with the chores so she could read. She did not marry and worked in Washington, D.C. She later lived with her brother Kenneth who, also, moved to Washington.

William moved to Washington, D.C. - probably the first member of the family to do so and probably before World War I. He became an accountant and graduated from law school while he was working. He died unmarried in the 1960's.

William was very generous. He supported his mother in a house on Eagle Street, Troy after Timothy's death. He, also, paid the college tuition of Henriette, the younger, when she attended the State University of New York in Albany in the 1930's.

Elizabeth (Bessie) married Edward Purcell, a surveyor who became Chief Engineer for the City of Troy. Bessie and Ed were the godparents of the author. Their children included sons William and Gerard. Gerard who continued to live in the area had children. William moved to North Carolina and it is not known if he had children.

The Purcells, like the Addisons and Guys descended from English settlers in Ireland who became Irish and remained Catholic after the Protestant Reformation. Death records indicate that both families, also, immigrated to the United States a generation before the Irish Famine of the 1840's.

Ursula's sister Edna, born about 1891, first married a Lynd. The marriage ended in divorce and without children.

After the divorce, Edna had a romantic relationship with Douglas MacArthur, the famous general from World War II and the Korean War. Their relationship included the period 1919-1922 when MacArthur was commandant at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Henriette, the author's mother, stated that Edna was MacArthur's date at cotillions at West Point during this period.

Edna told Henriette that MacArthur was somewhat pompous and she would sometimes tease him. Edna gave Henriette a vase that Edna received from MacArthur probably in the early 1920's. Unfortunately, Henriette lost the vase in a move.

Edna's relationship with MacArthur ended probably in 1922 when MacArthur married Louise Brooks. About 1942, Edna was remarried to a German American whose surname is not known. The marriage seems to have been an amicable marriage of convenience. Edna was living in Washington, D.C. at the time and her husband bought her a farm called Merrywood in Virginia. The author recalls seeing "Merrywood" in his grandmother Pansy's address book, but cannot recall the town. Edna died without issue at the age of about 65.

Walter who died as a young child was named after his uncle Walter Fagan, Nettie's brother. An anecdote survives that young Walter used to imitate his grandfather Thomas Fagan by carrying around a smaller version of Thomas' walking stick.

The twins' given names appear to come from Catherine MacDermot Roe's background. The name Kenneth, of Scottish origin, probably comes from the family of Dorothy Irving, Catherine's mother. Additionally, Leslie was a very popular given name in the Irving family due to centuries old marriage alliances between the Irvings and Leslies. Hence, Leslie Irving was an attempt to preserve, both, the Irving and Leslie heritage.

Despite being 44 at the outbreak of World War II, Leslie enlisted in the U.S. Army during the war and served as a sergeant in Europe. There is a photo of him in uniform taken in Sicily. A talented singer, Leslie took voice lessons in New York City. It is not known if he sang professionally. Leslie died unmarried about 1970.

Kenneth, godfather of the author's mother, Henriette, joined the U.S. Army Cavalry about 1915. He participated in the U.S. military campaign against Zapata in Mexico. He served in the U.S. Cavalry in France during World War I and afterward served in the military occupation of Germany.

As a cavalryman, Kenneth continued a family tradition dating back to the Fagan cavalry's service on behalf of King James II against William of Orange at Derry and Aughrim in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. This tradition is described in the Appendix material on the Fagans.

After returning from his service abroad, Kenneth moved to Washington, D.C. with his cousin Joseph Spain. They obtained jobs in the Capitol through their congressmen. Joseph went to law school and later returned to Troy while Kenneth went into the construction business. Kenneth and his family settled in Bethesda, Maryland where he constructed and owned residential apartment projects and single family homes.

Kenneth prospered sending his daughter, Jane, to a private catholic boarding school in Florida and to Vassar College. He belonged to Washington's prestigious Congressional Country Club. A real fighter, Kenneth applied for a commission in World War II and was bitterly disappointed when it was rejected on account of his age.

Kenneth retired from business in 1943 at the age of only 46. He later moved to St. Petersburg, Florida where he built and owned a motel. Kenneth died about 1970. His son, also named Kenneth, of Bethesda, Maryland, a civil engineer, carried on the family tradition of building and his projects included construction of the Washington D.C. Metro rail system.

Ursula, the author's maternal grandmother through her daughter Henriette, the younger, was nicknamed Pansy by her brother when she was a baby. She remained in the Troy, New York area all her life and was the author's most important source of family history.

Following the death of her husband, Thomas Fagan on August 26, 1891, Catherine MacDermot Roe, Pansy's maternal grandmother, came to live in the top floor of the Simpson's family home in Troy. As a result, the grandchildren, especially Pansy, had a close relationship with her grandmother that continued even after Pansy grew up, married and had a child of her own.

It was said that Catherine was more tolerant and affectionate than Nettie. So Pansy and her siblings often found themselves in the company of their grandmother. As a child, Pansy, in particular, accompanied Catherine on trips to New York City to see her MacDermot Roe relations. Pansy, also, learned invaluable historical information about her grandmother's family that she passed along to the author when he was a child.

Pansy married Michael Joseph Meaney (born, August 14, 1884, Mechanicville, New York, died March 2, 1965, Schenectady, New York) Their three children included Henriette, the younger, the author's mother.

Michael Meaney, husband of Pansy, was the grandson of Michael Meaney who was known by his nickname Peter. According to Kay Carson, a Meaney cousin of Henriette, Peter Meaney was born in Tipperary. The 1880 U.S. Census shows that Peter was born in Ireland in 1816/1817.

Evidently, Peter sold his farm in Ireland when he moved to the United States, probably in the 1840's, because he had enough money to buy his own farm in Broadalban, Northhampton Township, Fulton County, New York State in an area known as Fish House. The site of the farm was later covered by the Onondaga Reservoir as it was sold to the State of New York after his death.

Peter married Mary Maroney of Amsterdam, New York after he came to America. The Maroneys, a rather small Irish family, originate in Ireland in eastern County Clare and northwestern Tipperary which adjoins it. My guess is that her parents came from Clare as after she married Peter, Mary took into her household a Catherine Kearney whose family originated in Clare. Catherine Kearney's father had gone to Alaska to mine the Klondike after the death of his wife.

Peter and Mary seem to have been leaders in the Catholic community in the Broadalban area. Before the Roman Catholic community there had a church building, mass was held at the Meaney farm.

Peter family pronounced his surname with a long "a" while unrelated Meany families pronounced the name with a long "e". Indeed, Peter is shown as Michael "Manay", age 63, in the 1880 U.S. Census. Peter's wife Mary is shown as age 62, indicating that she was born in 1817/1818. The phonetic spelling of the surname is significant as the long "a" pronunciation of Meaney was that found in Tipperary.

Michael Meaney, husband of Pansy, was the son of Peter's son, Michael J. Meaney (1852-1913), an engineer with the Boston and Maine Railroad. Michael, the engineer, drove a freight train named "The Flyer" between Boston and the railroad terminal in Mechanicville, New York where the family lived. Mechanicville is not far from Troy.

As a child, Michael, Pansy's husband, spent some of his summers at the farm of his grandfather Peter Meaney. An anecdote that Michael related to the author concerned Peter's dog, Patsy. Michael vividly remembered

Patsy's encounter with a porcupine. The dog survived but the porcupine's needles caused her considerable grief. Patsy was remembered when the author named the family dog Patsy, some 70 years later.

Peter and Mary's children, other than Michael, the railroad engineer, were Peter (1854-1942) who prospered in the real estate business in Schenectady, New York, Frank, born 1857/68, and John born 1859/1860. Frank and John stayed on the farm and continued to operate it until they sold the property for the reservoir.

Peter, born 1854, married Theresa Keyes of Schenectady. Peter and Theresa had a son Francis who was the father of Raymond, Postmaster of Schenectady, New York and Thomas L. (1907-1999), Chief of the Schenectady Fire Department. Thomas received an award from Kiwanis International proclaiming that the Schenectady Fire Department was among the nine best fire departments in the United States. Per [Schenectady Gazette, April 23, 1963](#).

Unfortunately, when Michael, the engineer, died while some of his six children were still minors. In those days, before social security or pensions, his family soon found itself in straightened circumstances and the children were separated living with other families.

Michael, Pansy's husband, was one of the older children and managed to fend for himself. He worked a variety of jobs including selling plumbing equipment. He told the author that one hot summer day he was lugging his heavy case of samples down the street - dying of the heat in a suit. He took a break to sit down and found that he was in front of what was then called an insane asylum. Michael told me that he saw the irony, since he was clearly the one not in his right mind. So he quit.

Michael decided to go to a business school in Albany where he learned accounting. Sometime later he became employed by the General Electric Company whose main facilities were in Schenectady. He worked for GE as a purchasing officer where he specialized in hard to find components for new equipment.

Michael was said to be an extremely good baseball player. This was a much appreciated skill as Troy was home to a major league baseball team when he was a child. However, Michael contracted a disease which left him with slightly impaired balance. It was not a noticeable disability in day to day living but it effectively ended his baseball career.

Michael and Pansy married in 1913 and a son, also, named Michael but called Snooky, was born the next year. Tragically, Snooky contracted tuberculosis when he was an infant. He died at two years old. Pansy never fully recovered from his passing. When Snooky was sick, he was examined by Pansy's grandmother, Catherine MacDermotRoe Fagan, a nurse/midwife. Catherine had the sad duty of telling Pansy that the child would not recover.

Catherine died on January 8, 1916 at the age of 88. Snooky passed on just a few weeks later. The relationship between Pansy and her grandmother was so strong that Pansy had Catherine's grave opened so that her infant son could be buried with her in the cemetery of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Troy.

While Snooky was ill, Pansy became pregnant with a second child. That child, named Henriette Elizabeth after her maternal grandmother, was the author's mother. Henriette was born on February 28, 1916 just a few weeks after her older brother died.

Henriette's earliest days were overshadowed by her parents' grief. However, in time she became a jewel in their eyes. There is a wonderful photo of Henriette at the age of about two in a summer dress with her father in Schenectady's Central Park.

Like her mother, Henriette was headstrong. When she was in first grade she was disappointed to learn that her friend, Sam Stratton, later a congressman, was not in her class. So, by herself, she marched to the principal's office to find out how this outrage had occurred.

Another son, named Kenneth, after his maternal uncle, was born in 1922. Despite six year age difference, Kenneth and Henriette became close. She used to take him to church on Sunday's by herself as her father went to an early mass. Pansy took great pride in sending them off in fine attire, but she did not see much point in going herself.

During the economic depression of the 1930's, Michael was subject to layoff like so many others. Pansy intervened by visiting a cousin, Leo O'Connor, who was a manager at General Electric. He used his influence to keep Michael on the payroll half time.

After Henriette graduated from the State University of New York at Albany, then called New York State Teacher's College, her brother Kenneth entered Union College, a private, then all male, college in Schenectady. He helped pay his tuition with part time jobs sponsored by Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal Work Project Administration.

Kenneth's college was interrupted in 1942 when he was drafted to fight in World War II. He served for 3 years in the Army Air Corps rising to the rank of sergeant. He saw action in North Africa and Italy. His uncle Leslie was, also, a sergeant in the same theater. An excellent writer, Kenneth sent hundreds of letters to his mother during World War II which are now in the author's possession.

When Kenneth returned, he resumed college on the GI bill. After graduating from Union, he was very active in the college's alumni activities throughout his life. He remained in Schenectady working in a variety of positions relating to personnel for GE and other companies.

Kenneth who died in 1987 never married. However, he went out for many years with Marilyn Howe of Schenectady. Her family was Episcopalian and her ancestor fought with Ethan Allen in the American Revolution.

Marilyn was a lovely woman who lived with her mother just a few blocks from Kenneth. She died a few years after he did. In her wallet was found a poem Kenneth had written for her. It is unfortunate that they never married and had children.

In 1941, Henriette married William ("Billy") Theodore Thomas (born Oct 27, 1915, Jamestown, New York, died September 5, 1994, Jamesburg, New Jersey), the author's father. Billy was an electrical engineer with General Electric in Schenectady. Henriette was introduced to him by a friend whose husband was, also, a young GE engineer.

Though only 5'6"/140 pounds Billy, was a star football and baseball player at Union College. He hit 500 for Union's baseball team his sophomore year and played semi-pro baseball during the summers. He might have gone pro, but in those days pro ball salaries were low so he decided to go into engineering.

As Billy was number one in his engineering class at Union and recipient of the college's Daggett award for the best scholar/athlete, he had a good choice of jobs. This was particularly true in 1939 as the 1930's Depression ended with the beginning of World War II in Europe. He recalls turning down an offer from IBM, a small company at the time.

His first job was with the General Electric Company where he helped build turbines. At the outbreak of World War II, Billy sought and secured a commission in the United States Navy to serve in the war. According to his younger brother Art, Billy was very angry that GE intervened to prevent him

from accepting the commission on the grounds that his engineering services were needed at GE. Art did not miss the irony as, Art was greatly chagrined when he was drafted in 1943.

After WWII, Billy worked at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in Niskayuna, New York where he was the manager of instrumentation development on the submarine advanced reactor project. From 1959 to 1962, he developed power electronic equipment for the fusion energy project at the Princeton University Plasma Physics Laboratory. The lab was attempting to achieve nuclear fusion through the acceleration of atoms.

He later returned to GE in Philadelphia where he developed electrical systems for satellites. After retiring from GE in 1985, he was a consultant on President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative a/k/a "Star Wars" Program and a consultant at Princeton's Plasma Physics Laboratory. He, also, served as an advisor to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's committee on the health effects of non-ionizing radiation. Billy did his masters and PhD engineering studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

Henriette was a teacher and high school guidance counselor with a master's degree in education. She had a lifelong interest in politics which she shared with her father Michael. She recalls listening to the radio broadcast of the Democratic National Convention in 1924 when she was a little girl.

Henriette celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in Princeton, New Jersey at the home her friends Janet and Jack DeGrouchy and their children David, Elizabeth and Andrew Tomlinson, Susie and Jan DeGrouchy and their grandchildren. Henriette's children and grandchildren, also, attended. Janet's maiden name was Ellis and the godmother of Henriette's mother, Pansy, was Mary Ellis.

Billy and Henriette had two children, William "Ted" Theodore, Jr. born February 1, 1949 and Kenneth Arthur Thomas (later Kenneth Thomas MacDermotRoe), born September 6, 1950, the author. Both were born in Schenectady, New York.

The family originally lived in Schenectady, New York where Billy was an engineer for the General Electric Company. In 1954, the family moved to Yardley, Bucks County, Pennsylvania when Billy became Chief Engineer for the Ajax Corporation in nearby Trenton, New Jersey. The family continued to live in Yardley when Billy changed jobs to the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory and, later, when he returned to the Philadelphia office of General Electric.



Both Ted and Ken were active in local sports, especially football and baseball. Billy, always a sports enthusiast, was for a time the President of the Pennsbury Athletic Association for the local youngsters.

Ted attended the Lawrenceville School for one year and later the George School, Newtown, Pennsylvania and the Peddie School, Hightstown, New Jersey. He played football at the latter two. He graduated from Springfield College in Massachusetts with a BA in English.

After teaching at a local public school in Yardley for one year, Ted enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served mostly in personnel in northern Virginia. He was briefly stationed in South Vietnam at the last stage of the Vietnam War but was recalled due to a bureaucratic mistake with his paperwork.

Ted worked for the State of New Jersey as a social worker and retired. He was married to June Dix and later to Roberta Campbell. He had no children from either marriage.

Ken attended Lawrenceville from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade (First to Fifth Forms). He graduated from Princeton in three years with a History major. He subsequently graduated from Columbia Law School and worked for the New York City law firm of LeBeouf, Lamb. From 1978 to 1981, Ken served as an Assistant Attorney General for New York State and while there was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

Dissatisfied with the mercenary and adversarial nature of the law, he resigned to become a ranger with the U.S. National Park Service. He, also, became an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve JAG Corps which he left as a Captain after 8 years.

Ken was active in community work - serving as President of the Lincoln Square Community Council on Manhattan's West Side and as President of the Parish Council of Blessed Sacrament Church on Broadway and 71<sup>st</sup> Street where he focused on social justice issues.

In 1978, Ken married Bonnie Jean Marchand, born September 23, 1951, Greenwich, CT, daughter of Nathan Marchand and Ernesta Jaros of Greenwich. Bonnie was a graduate of Michigan State University and Columbia Business School.

After starting a marketing career with General Foods at their Headquarters in White Plains, New York, Bonnie switched fields and spent

the rest of her career in investment banking. She developed an expertise in securities operations with important international banks including Flemings and Warburgs. She later worked with SEI, a large designer of trading and operations software platforms for the financial industry.

Ken and Bonnie had three children, all born in New York Hospital on Manhattan's East Side:

Marchand William Thomas, later Marchand Thomas MacDermotRoe, born February 8, 1988

Dolley Caroline Thomas, later Dolley Caroline MacDermotRoe, born July 16, 1991

MacDermotRoe Conor Thomas, later Conor Thomas MacDermotRoe, born May 8, 1994

On April 2, 1997, Kenneth's family revived the surname MacDermotRoe pursuant to an order of the Supreme Court of the State of New York for New York County by Justice Helen Freedman, Index # 105886/1997.

Marchand, a soldier, served in the American war in Afghanistan with the military police. In Afghanistan, he was in charge of running a POW prison containing 150 Taliban fighters. Although there were frequent riots at other POW camps in the area, Marchand maintained order by establishing rapport with the prisoners through his intimate knowledge of their Muslim religion. His base was subject to regular rocket bombardment by the Afghan resistance.

An avid student of current military affairs and military history, Marchand was the military affairs commentator for *In Context*, a radio series broadcast on WPKN 89.5 FM, Bridgeport, CT, an affiliate of the independent Pacifica radio network. Many of the programs have been broadcast nationally.

In 2014, March married Abeer Al-Ghawi, the daughter of Jassim Ahmed Al-Basha and Sandra Lara Miranda, a school teacher of Mexican descent. Abeer was raised in Bahrain by her mother and her stepfather Jassim Al-Ghawi, a software engineer of Saudi descent who came to the U.S. for college and graduate school. She holds a master's degree in history and public administration from the University of New Mexico.

On April 15, 2015, Hamza William Angel MacDermotRoe, a son, was born to Marchand and Abeer MacDermotRoe in New Mexico. He is the first grandchild of Ken and Bonnie MacDermotRoe.

Dolley graduated from the University of New Hampshire majoring in Psychology and Justice. She continued to reside in New Hampshire where she works for a Vermont based firm that promotes economic development in rural American towns. In her spare time, she performs pop influenced folk music at local venues.

Conor graduated from the University of Connecticut, School of Business at Storrs where he majored in health care management. He works as a business analyst for Optum, a leading technology firm in the health insurance industry. He is, also, a member of a professional comedy group and performs stand-up comedy. After graduation from college, he was admitted to membership in the University Club of New York City where his father has been a member since 1979. He was sponsored by his father and seconded by longtime family friend Lawrence Jones, Esq. of Hempstead, New York.

All three children were home schooled in New York City and Greenwich, Connecticut by Ken. As teens, they all studied health care with the Greenwich Emergency Medical Service and earned state licenses as Emergency Medical Technicians at age 16 before attending college. Each scored at the top of their EMT class.

All three children became accomplished horseback riders. They fox hunted with their parents with the Reedy Creek Hounds of McKenny, Virginia. The master of Reedy Creek was their longtime friend Jim Culleton, MFH with whom Ken and Bonnie hunted for 30 years in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

## *Appendix A*

### *Marie-Louise O'Murphy*

Marie-Louise O'Murphy de Boisfaily (1737-1814), mistress of King Louis XV of France was a descendant of an Edmond MacDermotRoe of Roscommon.<sup>lxxvii</sup> By dates, this Edmond may have been the Edmond who married Margaret Bellew of Louth, the grandfather of Edmond of Emlagh. Sir Dermot MacDermot in *MacDermot of Moylurg*, suggests that Edmund MacDermot (Roe) of Emlagh was a son of Clement MacDermot Roe of County Louth. See pages 329-330.

The O'Morphy (alternate spelling of O'Murphy) genealogy at the Heraldic Museum, Dublin was drawn up by Ulster Herald William Hawkins in 1772 at the request of Marie-Louise and her sister Marie-Brigitte. It shows the MacDermot Roe descent as follows:

1. Edmund MacDermottroe, Esq. of Roscommon had a daughter Maude who married Dennis O'Morphy, Lord of Beard, of Kerry.
2. Dennis O'Morphy and Maud had a son Dennis Oge, who married Margaret. dau. of Teige O'Connor Kerry of Carrigfoyle who left Ireland 1688 and died in France, Aug 9, 1713.
3. Dennis Oge and Margaret had a son Daniel who married Margaret. dau of John Hickey. John Hickey is believed to be the son of Dr. William Hickey, Doctor of Physic, to Charles II c 1663 who descended from the O'Hickeys of Ballyhickey Castle, Quin, Co. Clare, hereditary Physicians to the O'Brien clan chieftains.
4. Daniel who died in Paris on June 18, 1753 at the age of 63 and Margaret had daughters Marie-Louise and Marie Brigitte.

Marie-Louise became the mistress of Louis XV of France in 1752 and had a child by him. She posed for Court painter Francois Boucher, who painted his famous nude of her in 1752, now preserved at the Alte Pinakotek in Munich.

Marie-Louise's father Daniel was the Private Secretary to Vicomte Clare, Charles O'Brien (1699-1761), Colonel of the Clare Regiment, and General of the Irish Brigade in the French army, (who distinguished himself at the Battle of Fontenoy in 1745) and was imprisoned in the Bastille in 1735 after his employer Charles O'Brien accused him of espionage for William of Orange. There were intense intrigues at Saint Germain-en-Laye, as disbanded Irish soldiers like Daniel O'Morphy struggled to survive.

On release from prison, Daniel was banished to Rouen where his youngest daughter, Marie-Louise, was born on Dec 13, 1737. In Rouen, Daniel was known as the Gentleman Cobbler, having taken up shoe repairs to supplement his meagre revenue. It seems likely that he knew the Garveys and MacDermots of Rouen, Irish emigres who prospered in commerce there and were part of its Irish-French community.

Given that Daniel was born in 1690, we can work backwards to a probable birthdate for Maud of about 1630-1640 with the marriage taking place circa 1650-1660. This would fit if she were the daughter of the Edmond who married Margaret Bellew, circa 1620. See page 315 of *MacDermot of Moylurg* for the pedigree showing Edmond and Margaret.

It is interesting that Edmond MacDermottroe, the ancestor of Marie-Louise, is "of Roscommon" in the O'Morphy pedigree while he is of Kilcurley, County Louth in the *MacDermot of Moylurg* pedigree. Similarly, Edmond's son, Clement, believed father of Edmond of Emlagh, County Roscommon described in Chapter 7, *infra*, is said to be "of Roscommon" in the Taaffe pedigree while he, too, is of County Louth in *MacDermot of Moylurg*. This "of Roscommon" attribution regarding both in the 1600's suggest that the MacDermots Roe of Emlagh held property in the area of central west County Roscommon from the early 1600's and perhaps long before - prior to becoming established in County Louth and Dublin. See Chapter 7, *infra*, for a full discussion of this issue.

Sources: Articles on the life of Marie-Louise O'Murphy and on the painting of her by Boucher are found on these websites accessed on April 30, 2018:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie-Louise\\_O%27Murphy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie-Louise_O%27Murphy)  
<http://enviedhistoire.canalblog.com/archives/2006/10/07/2848716.html>

## *Appendix B*

### *Lieutenant Patrick MacDermot Roe*

Following the defeat of the King James II by William of Orange and the ensuing 1691 Treaty of Limerick, many Irish soldiers who fought for James fled to French where they joined newly created French/Irish regiments. This gave them the opportunity to continue their military careers while serving a Catholic king often at odds with their mutual English enemy.

Among the new French regiments created by and for the Irish was the renowned Dillion's Regiment. While Irish officers served the French king loyally in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, many opposed the French Revolution - particularly after the new French government executed the King and adopted an anti-clerical policy.

Britain sought to take advantage of the situation by creating in 1794 a new Dillion's Regiment (UK) and by ending the prohibition of Catholics as officers in the British Army. Chevalier Christopher Fagan, a former French officer whose life is discussed in Appendix B, *infra*, was among those instrumental in creating the new Irish Catholic British regiments. He had moved from France to London where he could exert more influence.

Among the original officers in Dillon's Regiment (UK) was Henry MacDermot, a younger son of Myles of Coolavin, the MacDermot, who was commissioned as Ensign on December 31, 1795. The following year Henry transferred to another regiment. He served throughout the Napoleonic War and, tragically, was killed in action in 1814 at the very end of the war.

On May 8, 1797, Patrick was commissioned Ensign in the same unit, officially known as the Irish Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> (Henry Dillion's) Regiment. *British Army List*, 46<sup>th</sup> edition, 1798, page 304. Although commissions in British Army infantry and cavalry regiments were usually obtained by purchase at that time, an exception was for newly created regiments. So, I think it likely that Patrick's appointment was due to connections rather than money.

It is interesting to note that a fellow officer in Patrick's regiment was Captain Christopher Fagan - perhaps the son of Chevalier Christopher Fagan.

The Patrick MacDermot Roe who came to the United States about 1807 and was the same age as Lieutenant Patrick was closely associated with the Fagans. The American bound Patrick's daughter married the daughter of Richard Fagan. In 1816, Patrick and Richard traveled together on the ship *Erin* from Dublin to New York City and may have been business associates, as well as, friends.

The year after Patrick joined Dillon's Regiment, Irish nationalists under Wolfe Tone rose in rebellion. The 1798 Irish rebellion was supported by the French army who, unfortunately arrived too late to save the day for the Irish. As a result of this scare, the British decided that they could not entirely trust the Catholic officers in these new Irish regiments and disbanded them.

Following the 1798 disbandment of Dillon's Regiment, Lieutenant Patrick went on "half pay". He received a small stipend, actually less than one-half pay, to stay on the rolls as an officer and keep himself available in case he was needed by the British Army. He probably went home and worked for his family business. My guess is that this would have been in Dublin as the better opportunities were there. However, like the other Emlagh MacDermots Roe, he would have maintained his social connections in County Roscommon.

Lieutenant Patrick's name came up in a letter in the archive in the library at Clonalis House, Castlerea, County Roscommon, Ireland, Ms. 9.1.SH.149. In the letter dated August 5, 1801, Dr. Charles O'Connor of Belanagare writes to Hugh MacDermot of Coolavin, eldest son of Myles, to inform him that he (Charles) "has straightened out the confusion" with respect to pay between Hugh's younger brother Henry (killed 1814), a full time army officer and Patrick McDermottroe, a half pay officer.

Finally, as the war with Napoleon heated up Patrick received a Commander in Chief Memorandum dated June 28, 1805 recommending him for appointment as a Lieutenant in a new regiment, the 99<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot (Prince of Wales Tipperary). I note that the name on the handwritten memorandum was rendered McDermot Rowe and refers to Patrick's being then assigned to the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment, probably an administrative assignment that had no actual effect on his life. *UK Public Records Office*, WO31/186. The appointment to the 99<sup>th</sup> and promotion to Lieutenant is shown in the *British Army List* as effective July 4, 1805.

British Army records show that Lieutenant Patrick spent little if any time physically with the 99<sup>th</sup>. He is listed in the Regiment's Officer's Monthly Return from July 4, 1805 with the note "absent with leave since 27 Feb

(1805)". Although he appears on the returns until July 1807, he is recorded as absent without leave since 27 Apr (1806)". *Supra*, WO17/110,221.

In 1805, the 99<sup>th</sup> Regiment was stationed in Jersey (St. Ovens and Grouville). In the second quarter of 1806, the Regiment was deployed to garrison duty in Bermuda, a notoriously dangerous assignment due to the high death rate from disease. It was probably Patrick's decision not to deploy with the 99<sup>th</sup> to Bermuda that caused his status to change to absent without leave.

Patrick's reluctance to re-enter the military after a seven year is not surprising. Now about 25, he was probably well established in his new career. Perhaps he was married or engaged.

Further, the prospect of being far from home in a boring but dangerous Caribbean assignment earning only a Lieutenant's salary must have had little appeal to him. So Patrick's brief military career ended in or about April 1806 as the 99<sup>th</sup> Regiment sailed to Bermuda without him and Patrick continued his civilian life.

Patrick's army paperwork does, however, give us the opportunity to see how he signed his name. From July 4, 1805, Patrick signed in the muster roll of the 99<sup>th</sup> Regiment to acknowledge receiving pay. His signature appears on the regimental muster roll for the period December 25, 1805 to January 26, 1806 as "Patrick M'Dermott Roe". *Supra*, WO12/9785. The geographic location of the sign in is not shown.



## *Appendix C*

# *Irvings and Fagans of Ireland*

### **Irvings**

This Irving connection to the author's family is as follows. Dorothy Irving, (born Ireland circa 1790, died New York City, January 17, 1837) married Patrick MacDermotRoe (abt. 1780-1850) who among other children had Catherine (1827-1916). Catherine married Thomas Fagan (1820-1891) and they had Henriette Elizabeth (1857-1939) who married Timothy Simpson (1840-1919) who had Ursula Bertha Simpson Meaney (1885-1974) who had Henriette Elizabeth Meaney Thomas (born 1916), the author's mother.

Details of the Irving ancestry of Dorothy are not known other than the reasonable guess that her father was named John based on her younger son's name. Although her family probably lived in County Roscommon, Ireland before immigrating to the United States in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, her family lived in Scotland prior to the late 1500's. Most likely they came from the branch of the Irvings headquartered in Bonshaw, Scotland near the English border.

The Irving Clan is a unique Gaelic family with a long history in Ireland, Scotland and England. No ancient family's migrations from Ireland to Scotland, England and back to Ireland have been so well recorded. The history of the clan is well documented in the *Book of Irvings* by John Beaufin Irving of Bonshaw, Chief, 1907, ISBN 09462880207.

The Irvings originated in ancient times in northern Ireland where they were an important clan in the Irish Kingdom of Dalriada in Ulster. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D., they moved to the west coast of Scotland as part of the expansion of Dalriada. The Irish had settled this area from time immemorial. Indeed, the western Scottish coast Argyle means, "coast of the Gaels". And the family name Irving is derived from Erinviene, meaning "coming from Ireland".

At its height about 600 A.D., Dalriada encompassed both the territory of modern County Antrim in northeast Ireland, as well as, Argyll. In the early 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D., the Dalriada royal family moved its seat from Ireland to Argyll.

While Irish Dalriada eventually was absorbed by neighboring Irish kingdoms, Scottish Dalriada prospered despite rivalry with the Picts of northern and eastern Scotland, a Celtic people about whom little is known. In the ninth century, Kenneth MacAlpin, ruler of Dalriada, brought the Picts under Dalriadic rule and laid the foundation for the modern nation of Scotland.

The Irvings played a prominent role in the early history of Scotland. The ninth century Scottish King Duncan was an Irving (then rendered Eryvine). His grandson Crian, Abthane of Dule and lay Abbot of Dunkeld was second in command to King Malcolm II. In 1004 Crian married Princess Beatrix, eldest daughter and heir of Malcolm II and their son was the King Duncan murdered by MacBeth in 1040. Thus, Crian was the progenitor of the male line of all the kings of Scotland to Alexander III, d. 1226 and all the female line sovereigns of Scotland down to present. See the [Irvings of Bonshaw](#), accessed January 13, 2017.

Crian had a younger brother Duncan who was known as, both, Duncan Eryvine and Duncan of Eskdale. King Malcolm II appointed this Duncan Governor of Cumbria, the border area between England and Scotland. In securing the area for Scotland, Duncan built Bonshaw Castle in the early 11<sup>th</sup> century in the Dumfries area. It remains in the family. Duncan married an heiress of the ancient British line Coel Hen and they were the ancestors of the Bonshaw Irvings.

In 1124, King David granted feudal superiority in Annandale, including Bonshaw to the Norman family de Brus (later Bruce). This was somewhat of a setback for the Irvings since they were royal cousins. However, the Irvings were, also, cousins to the Bruces. Robert the Bruce descended from a daughter of David Eryvine, Earl of Huntingdon, brother to King William of Scotland. The two families retained close relations.

William Irwyn of Bonshaw was a close confidant and armor bearer of Robert the Bruce in his struggle to become King of Scotland. He fought with Robert at Bannockburn in 1314. For his services, William in 1323 was granted the Drum Castle, near Aberdeen and 10,000 acres. In the Bonshaw area, Irving became the rendering of the name, while in Arberdeenshire the name was rendered Irvine.

Like many of the MacDermots and MacDermots Roe, the Irvings were freemasons. Additionally, they may also have been associated with the Knights Templar. Many of the Knights Templar fled to Scotland after their suppression in France in 1307. Robert Bruce, who was excommunicated at the time, gave them refuge. Some believe that it was the help of Knights Templar that gave victory to Bruce and the Scots at the Battle of Bannockburn.

The Knights Templar connection to Bruce is discussed in such works as *The Sword and the Grail*, Andrew Sinclair, 1992, ISBN 0-517-586618-5 and *The Temple and the Lodge*, Baigent and Leigh, 1989, ISBN 1-55970-126-9. William Sinclair, a Bruce supporter and probable Knights Templar, and his son Oliver erected a famous chapel at Rosslyn in Midlothian, near Edinburgh in the mid-and late 1400's. Some members of Dorothy's branch of Irvings live in Midlothian which includes Balantrodoch, the headquarters of the Knights Templar in Scotland.

Post Bruce, the Irvings continued to fight to defend Scottish independence. In 1513, Sir Christopher Irving of the Bonshaw branch was killed in 1513 at the Battle of Flodden. In this battle in Northumberland, the English army defeated the Scots under King James IV.

By the 16th century, the Irvings owned over 26,000 acres in the Irving Parish, about 20 miles southeast of Lockerbie near the English border and had a fighting force of over 600 armed men. In Aberdeenshire, the Irvines owned 15,000 acres and other Irvings owned a large part of the Orkneys. It is from the Orkney branch that William Irving (c.1735-1810), a New York City merchant and father of writer Washington Irving, came.

An interesting historical detail is that Irvings fought in Hungary in the 5th century AD as part of an anti-Roman alliance. Some Irvings stayed behind and there exist today descendants in Hungary with the name Ervin.

The Irvings of Bonshaw were Jacobites. Some came down to London with the Stuarts in the 17th century where they held important government positions. Among members of the English court group was Sir Christopher Irving (1618-1693), the royal physician (FRCS Edinburgh, & MA Edinburgh 1645, MD before 1669) and historiographer to Charles II (30 July 1686). Sir Christopher studied medicine at Edinburgh University but was forced to leave the university because of his support of the Episcopal Church and his refusal to become a Presbyterian. In 1678 Christopher published a short family history "The Original of the Family of the Irvines or Erinvines".

During the English Civil War, which occurred between the reigns of Charles I and Charles II, Sir Christopher was Surgeon General for English General Monk, a leader of Republican forces. Late in the war, General Monk changed sides and supported the Stuart restoration. It was after the restoration that Christopher was appointed court physician and historiographer to Charles II.

Another Bonshaw Irving prominent in London was Thomas Irving, a younger son of the Bonshaw chief. Thomas was named Inspector General for British Trade in North America in the late 1700's.

Two large Irving branches were established in Ireland beginning in the late 1500's. John Irving received a grant to lands in County Roscommon from Sir Nicholas Malby, Lord President of Connaught about 1580. See *Burke's Irish Family Records*, by Bernard Burke, 1976 at pages 625-627. The date of the grant shows that these Irvings had a good relationship with the Tudors. The spelling of the name suggests that John came from the Bonshaw branch. However, by 1700 the surname in Ireland had evolved to Irwin.

While it is not known exactly where this John Irving fits into the Bonshaw Irving line, it would appear that his family was not distantly related to that of Sir Christopher, the royal physician who lived a century later. During the English civil wars, Sir Christopher forfeited his patrimony due to an Irish connection.

John Irving of the circa 1580 Roscommon grant had two sons, James of Ballybride who died in 1674 and John of Lislaghna who died after 1656. Ballybride is a townland in Roscommon Civil Parish of Roscommon County while Lislaghna, later called Fernhall, is in Polranny Townland, Baslick Civil Parish, Roscommon.

The two properties are located, respectively, at the southern and northern borders of Emlagh, an area in Central West Roscommon encompassing the parishes of Baslick, Ballintober, Cloonygormican, Drumatemple, Oran and eastern Kilbride, described in detail in Chapter 7, *infra*. Emlagh was home to many Irwins and MacDermots Roe.

James was the ancestor of the Irwins of Tanragoe, County Silgo who later became Protestant and held important offices in the army and civil establishment. James through his fourth son, Robert Irwin of Bobsgrrove, was ancestor of some of the Irwins of Emlagh while other Emlagh Irwins descend from James younger brother John of Lislaghna.

The evolution of the Irwins of Emlagh is as follows,

Robert Irwin of Bobsgrrove, (born circa 1628, died October 16, 1699) son of James, was dispossessed as a Catholic and re-located to Emlagh Townland in Baslick CP near Castleplunket. The name Emlagh is bit confusing here as it is used in the names of many townlands within the larger area known as Emla.

Robert's second son Garrett (also Gerald) of Emla married July 1, 1702 the daughter of Walter Davis of Cloonshanville. The Davis' acquired the property of the Dominican Priory of the Holy Cross at Cloonshanville which was founded by the MacDermots Roe in 1385 and whose last prior at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century was Bernard MacDermot Roe.

Their son, John of Emla, who is shown as Protestant in the Elphin Census of 1749, married an Owen and their son Robert married Bridget, the daughter of cousin Christopher Irwin of Oran whose ancestry will be explained. Robert, now of Oran, and Bridget's children included John of Oran who married circa 1800 Catherine, daughter of Walter Balfe of Heathfield, County Roscommon.

The children of John of Oran and Catherine Balfe included a daughter Eleanor who married a McDermott, likely a MacDermot Roe given the location and they had issue. By dates this would have been about 1850. The male line in this Irwin branch went extinct as neither of John and Catherine's sons had issue.

To understand the Irwins of Emlagh, we need to return to John of Lislaghna (later Fernhall), the younger son of John, the Elizabethan grant circa 1580. John of Lislaghna, who forfeited his estates in 1641 for participating in a rebellion against the English, married Elizabeth Clifford of Carrowmonyn. Their children included John of Ballinderry, (born 1618, died June 16, 1720) whose wife is not named. Ballinderry is a townland in Kilbride Civil Parish.

While John, died 1720, was succeeded at Ballinderry by his older son James, his younger son Christopher, according to *Burke's, supra*, became the ancestor of the Irwins of Leabeg, Drumatemple Civil Parish and Oran, Oran Civil Parish. Christopher, whose birth we would estimate at about 1650, appears to been very aggressive in acquiring land as he is described in *Burke's* as of Newtown, Leabeg, Oran, Cloverhill, Killinrity, Mullymux and Rockfield. He married three times with issue from the second and third wives, Alison Harrison, died circa 1690 and Sara Lynch, died 1714.

A Christopher Irwin, possibly the son of the Christopher born about 1650, is shown in Fuerty Civil Parish in the Elphin Census of 1749, not Oran. The north end of Fuerty Civil Parish borders the eastern side of Oran Civil Parish. Instead, John Irwin with no children is shown in Oran Townland, Oran Civil Parish. Possibly, John of Oran is a son of Christopher of Fuerty and has not yet had children. Unfortunately, *Burke's* does not describe the Leabeg/Oran line of Irwins any further.

The Irwins of Roscommon became the most numerous of the Irish Irving descendants. They generally remained Catholics despite the Cromwellian conquests and the imposition of the Penal Laws. The Irvings/Irwins of Roscommon, like the MacDermots Roe of Alderford, were staunch Jacobites. John Irving of Lislagna (near Emlagh) forfeited much of his property for supporting the Stuarts in the mid-1600's English Civil War and Irish rebellion. Furthermore, the Irish Irvings were freemasons. An 1806 letter states that G.D. Irvine of Castle Irvine, County Fermanagh was then and had been for several years secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

John of Lislaghna had a son Edmund of Lislaghna who married Sarah MacDermot daughter of Tomaltach McRory of Dungar. The Dungar branch of the MacDermots were close to the MacDermots Roe as Tomaltach's first cousin, Rory of Dungar was the ward of Henry MacDermot Roe of Ballinahow. In a grant dated 28 August 1677, Calendar of Patent Rolls, National Library of Ireland, the latter Rory was given title to various properties in County Roscommon and adjacent County Mayo "to hold these to the use of Edmd Irving, Sarah his wife and Mary Dermott forever." *MacDermot of Moylurg*, Sir Dermot MacDermot, page 308.

The Irwin pedigree shows intermarriage between the Irwins of this part of Roscommon and the MacDermots. A John Irwin of Oran, son of John of Emlagh (1750), son of Garrett of Emlagh, married Catherine Balfe circa 1800 and they had a daughter Eleanor who married a McDermott. *Burke's Irish Family Records*, page 626. A latter Garrett Irving, flourished 1865, was a resident of Troy, New York where Dorothy Irving was living in 1830.

A close examination finds numerous Irwins as neighbors of the MacDermots Roe of Emlagh. In the 1749 Elphin Census, John Irwin, a Catholic farmer with 7 servants lived in Oran, Oran Civil Parish while Michael MacDermotRoe was Parish Priest of Oran Roman Catholic Parish in 1756. In Griffith's Valuation, there are Michael McDermott and Patrick McDermott living nearby in Ballydooley (57 acres) and Emlagh More (1 acre), respectively.

Also, in the 1749 Elphin Census you find John Irwin, a Protestant farmer with 3 servants and 8 children, living in Emlagh, Baslick Civil Parish just east of Bryan MacDermotRoe of Castleteheen, flourished early 1700's. There are several John Irwins and one Patrick living in the area in Griffiths with a Michael McDermott living very near in Castleplunkett. A Michael MacDermotRoe, poet, flourished 1822, lived about 2 miles southeast next to Daniel Irwin, Ballymaglancy and Michael McDermott, Tonbaun of Griffiths.

The Irwins and MacDermots Roe of Emlagh were both prominent in the Roman Catholic Church in the Elphin Diocese. Thomas McDermot Roe of Castlmehen and Bernard and Edmund MacDermot Roe of Emlagh are listed among those in the Diocese of Elphin whose views were sought in 1748 on the selection of the next bishop. Edmund was probably the son of Thomas who died 1778. Other prominent families included in the survey were the Irwins, Plunketts and O'Conors.

Another large Irish branch of the Irvings settled in County Fermanagh, Ireland in the early 1600's. Sir Christopher Irving, died 1665, barrister, was granted Castle Irvine (previously known as Castle Necarne) by King James I. The territory included Lowtherstown, renamed Irvinestown. Sir Christopher was of the Bonshaw Irving branch. However, his Fermanagh descendants adopted the spelling Irvine and Irving occurs only rarely in this branch.

Dorothy and the Roscommon Irwins likely have their roots in the Bonshaw branch. This inference is based on: 1, the name was first spelled Irving when the family arrived in Roscommon, 2. the name Christopher, prominent in Bonshaw was, also, prominent in the Roscommon branch and 3. both the Roscommon and Bonshaw Irvings were strong supporters of the Stuarts.

Additionally, Catherine MacDermot Roe's work in medicine as a nurse/midwife supports the Bonshaw connection. As noted, Sir Christopher Irving was court physician to King Charles II. It is interesting to note that at the time Catherine was a mid-wife in Troy, New York, James Henry Irving of nearby Cohoes was an apothecary/chemist. James Henry married Mary Ann Doniphen, also of Cohoes, on 27 December 1863, performed by Dr. Baldwin. *Troy Daily Times*, 28 December 1863.

Since we have no further information regarding Dorothy's ancestry and since the Irvings had been established in Roscommon for 200 years when she was born, we can't say for certain how she descends from the Irvings who first came to the area. However, the fact that her family was Catholic suggests that she descended from John of Lislaghna. This connection with John of Lislaghna is bolstered by the fact that a marriage between a

descendant of John and a MacDermot Roe of Emlagh was recorded in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century - just one a generation before Patrick MacDermotRoe married Dorothy.

## **Fagans**

The Fagan ancestry of the author is derived from Thomas Fagan of Troy who married Catherine MacDermotRoe in Troy, New York about 1850. From Thomas' death certificate, we know that his parents were Richard (born about 1780) and Jane Fagan.

As with the Irvings, there exists no Fagan pedigree to which we can connect Richard Fagan. However, we do have information regarding Richard's family's Irish origins.

The author's grandmother, Ursula, the granddaughter of Thomas Fagan, indicated that his family originated in Cork and Killarney. As we discussed below, an important branch of the Fagans of Dublin was established in Cork City early on - in the 1500's at the latest. Additionally, a Patrick Fagan, father of 22 children, was the only Fagan representative in Killarney. Members of the branch later migrated to Cork City.

While we can't trace the line back further than Richard Fagan, the Fagans like the Irvings have such a rich family history that it is worth preserving here. Among the particularly important aspects of the Fagan history is their political and military prominence in Ireland from 1200 and their interesting French connection from their origins to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Given the ancient prominence of the Fagans, it is ironic that there is no general agreement among genealogists as to their origins. Many scholars hold the view that the Fagans are of French origin. Other genealogists assert that the Fagans are of Gaelic origin and that their name was originally O'Hagan. A third view is that the Fagans include two unrelated septs - one of French origin and one of Gaelic origin.

The oral history within the author's family was that their Fagan's originated in France. This is why the family named the author's grandmother Henriette rather than the English equivalent Henrietta. So let's start with the case for the French origins.

One Fagan family history group takes the view that the Fagans came from Normandy, France to England with William the Conqueror in 1066 and



that the surname Fagan is a variation of the original French name Fecamp. This is taken from their website:

*Normandy is on the coast of France and it was from there that William the Conqueror attacked England and fought Harold at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. With him came many monks, soldiers and knights. William departed Normandy from a place named Fecamp.*

*The name Fecamp is pronounced "fay-kan" in French. Guillaume de Fecamp accompanied William the Conqueror to England in the Norman invasion as a knight in his service. The Abbot of the Abbey at Fecamp sent several Knights to assist William, and more may have been named "de Fecamp" which simply means of Fecamp. Guillaume (William) de Fecamp is listed in the Domesday Book as a landowner in England after the invasion. It is a theory that the name de Fecamp was anglicized to Feakin(s)/ Feagin(s) in the ensuing centuries.*

*Feakins is a name that is today most prominent in County Essex, due East of London. The Gaelic name of O'Faodohagin is actually the Irish version of the Norman name. This means that some of us are English, some are likely Scottish, and yes, many of us are Irish by virtue of having had ancestors living in Ireland for centuries and intermarrying with the Irish.....*

*In our hypothesis, we believe that those family members that remained in England had their surnames anglicized to Fagin, Feagins, Feagin, Feakin, Feakins, Phagin and many other variations. FEAGINS is probably the root surname from England.*

Source: Pat Feagins and John Feagin from their website on the origins of the Fagans & variations on the name.

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~feagin/index.htm> accessed 26 Oct 12

The view that the Fagans originated in Normandy would appear to be supported by the fact that there is no mention of the Fagan family in Ireland prior to 1200. It is, also supported by the histories which mention a William/Guillaume Fagan as the owner of extensive house property in Dublin in 1200. Furthermore, the given name William was not to my knowledge ever used among the Gaels at that early time.

The Fagans had a strong presence in Dublin and vicinity until the property was taken as punishment for the support of King James II against William of Orange. The Fagan family seat, Feltrim (meaning "hill of the

wolves”) built in 1429, was located near Malahide, 6 miles north of Dublin. Additionally, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Fagan’s acquired a castle and lands at Bullock, south of Dublin on the Kingston to Dalkey Road. Within Dublin there was Fagan’s Castle which stood until 1788 and a gate located at Page’s Court, a passage between Cornmarket and Cook Street within the old Dublin City Walls near St. Audoen’s churchyard. The Fagan’s were buried at St. Audoen’s in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. See <http://clanfagan.com/research/castles-of-the-fagans>, accessed August 20, 2018

Although part of the Norman establishment, the Fagans generally remained Catholic. Luke Fagan was Bishop of Meath and later Archbishop of Dublin 1734-1757 during the Penal Law period. His tenure as archbishop included the time that Thomas MacDermotRoe of Alderford was Bishop of Ardagh 1747-1751.

On the other hand, other genealogists hold the view that that the Fagan’s descend from an ancient Irish family, the O’Hagans of Tyrone. This latter view is incorporated into the genealogy of Chevalier Christopher Fagan certified February 29, 1788 (GOMs 164, NL of Ireland). The Chevalier’s detailed pedigree is reprinted in *A Fagan Genealogy*, John J. Fagan, Jr., (1997). It is, also, reflected in the pedigree of William Fagan, married 1827 of Cork who was Mayor and Member of Parliament for that City and describes himself in the pedigree as Chief of the Fagans. See “Fagan of Feltrim” in *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, John Burke, published 1838 at pages 626-631.

Under the O’Hagan view, the Fagans descend from Milesius through his son Heremon to Nial of the Nine Hostages who was a contemporary of St. Patrick. Through Nial’s son Fergus, the O’Hagans were established as a branch of the O’Neills of Ulster. The name O’Hagan was adopted by the sept about 1000 AD and its territory, Tullagh-Og was in County Tyrone.

As recounted in the Chevalier’s pedigree, in 1180, Patrick O’Hagan, second son of John O’Hagan, Baron of Tullagh-Og accompanied his father in an expedition to assist the O’ Melaghin, Prince of Meath in repelling English settlers. After the successful completion of the mission, Patrick married the Prince’s daughter Dorothea and remained in Meath. The Prince granted Patrick a large territory in Meath.

In 1210, Patrick O’Hagan’s territory was confirmed by Walter De Lacy, the new Norman Lord of Meath under the authority of King John who was then in Ireland. King John conditioned the confirmation of territory on Patrick becoming anglicized including changing his name to Fagan. Henceforth,

according to this tradition, O'Hagan and his descendants were known as Fagans.

The pedigree shows that Patrick's Fagan descendants prospered. In 1358, King Edward III appointed John Fitz Richard Fagan, High Sheriff of Meath and governor of the Castle of Trym. In 1399, King Richard II gave new grants to Hugh, John's son and personally knighted him in Dublin. Sir Hugh's son John and grandson Richard were appointed High Sheriffs of Meath in 1423 and 1457 respectively.

This O'Hagan/Gaelic theory of the family origins explains how the family happened to have large holdings in Meath. However, it does not explain the early and important position of the Fagans in Dublin and Cork.

Consequently, I am inclined to the view that there are two separate families with the name Fagan. One is the Gaelic family descending from the O'Hagan's which was centered in Meath. The other derives from the Fecamps of Normandy and settled in Dublin in the 12<sup>th</sup> century as part of the Norman conquest of Ireland. Further, I believe that it is from the Dublin/Norman branch that the Fagans of Cork and others using the name Feltrim for their seat originate.

As this history of the Fagan's continues, I will focus on the Norman/Fecamp Fagans and its branches since it is from this family, not the Meath/O'Hagan/Fagan family, that Richard Fagan and his son Thomas Fagan of Troy, New York descend.

The Fagans' support for the English crown ended when Christopher's son of Richard, flourished 1457 joined in the rebellion of Perkin Warbeck. Warbeck claimed to be Richard, Duke of York, one of the two "little princes" murdered in the Tower of London in 1483. The princes, Richard and his older brother Edward who briefly reigned in 1483 as Edward V, were the sons of Edward IV who died earlier that year. Their murder was blamed on the princes' uncle who became Richard III although some modern scholars now suspect that the real murderer was Henry VII who deposed Richard.

Perkin Warbeck/Richard, Duke of York claimed that he had been spared by his older brother Edward's murderers and was allowed to escape from the Tower of London. He was taken to the Continent where he lived under the protection of York loyalists. His claim to be Richard was supported by Margaret of York, his paternal aunt, and, also, by the powerful Duke of Burgundy and other European monarchs. In 1492 he arrived in Cork from Lisbon to begin a campaign to take the throne from Henry VII. The people of

Cork warmly received Warbeck/Duke of York. The Mayor of Cork recognized him as Richard IV and many Irish rallied to his cause.

Among Warbeck's Irish supporters was Christopher Fitz Richard Fagan of Derry Fagan, Faganston, Monrath, & c. He had married Catherine, daughter of James Fitzgerald third son of Thomas, 7th Earl of Kildare. James Fitzgerald was, also, a prominent supporter of Warbeck. For taking part in the rebellion, Christopher was attainted and his lands given to Aylmer of Lyons, the Barnewalls and others. While fighting for Perkin Warbeck in 1494, Christopher Fagan and four of his five sons were killed by the forces of Henry VII at the siege of Catherlogh. *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, John Burke, 1838, digitized May 19, 2006, original at Oxford University.

Christopher's fifth son, John, escaped to Cork and circa 1514 wed Phillis Skiddy of Skiddy's Castle, located in Cork City. He had sons William and Thomas, and a daughter Phillis, but their descent is not known. D'Alton says that John's son Thomas remained in Cork, "Thomas Fagan, afterwards one of the citizens of Cork, who not only opposed the proclaiming of King James, and the entrance of the Lord Mountjoy into the city, but even took forcible possession of Skiddy's Castle." *The History of the County of Dublin*, John D'Alton, 1838, Hodges and Smith.

It is not clear if the Fagans of Cork remained in Cork throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> century or might have returned to their base in Dublin. The Dublin Fagans appear to have been more conspicuous except perhaps for the period immediately after the Williamite War when some, attainted, fled to Cork. Feltrim, the family headquarters in Dublin, was adopted as the name for their seats in Cork, Boyle, Roscommon and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This would tend to indicate that they all regarded Dublin as their base.

Since family oral tradition indicates that Thomas Fagan of Troy's family came from Cork, it is possible that he descends from John flourished 1514, grandson of Christopher, Warbeck's supporter, since the names Thomas and Richard are strong in the line. However, no pedigree exists showing this branch. William Fagan of Cork's branch came to Cork from Killarney in the late 1700's after leaving Dublin circa 1700 for Killarney.

The pedigree continues through the offspring of Richard, one of the four sons killed at Catherlogh. Richard, killed 1494, had married Anastatia, daughter of John Rocheford, Lord of Killadow, Meath and Carmyck, Kilkenny and sometime Lord Mayor of Dublin and Anastatia, daughter of Robert Barnewall of Drynagh. They had a child Thomas who was an infant at the time of his father's death.

Thomas, born circa 1494, was raised by the Rochefords in Dublin. In 1524 Thomas married Amy Nangle, daughter of the Baron of the Navan by whom he got a large fortune and acquired considerable estates in the City and County of Dublin, as well as, estates in Meath, Wexford and Sligo. They had two children Christopher born circa 1525, who married Joan, daughter of Sir James Fitzsimmons, Knight Lord Mayor, and Richard (1527-1610).

The pedigree continues through Richard (1527-1610) of Bloike and Feltrim. In 1575 Richard was made High Sheriff for the City and County of Dublin and in 1587 he was made Lord Mayor of Dublin. Richard's brother Christopher was Dublin High Sheriff in 1565 and 1573. By Letters Patent dated January 31, 1604, Richard obtained from King James I a pardon for himself and his son and heir John born 1558. Thus, like the MacDermots Roe, the Fagans were to become staunch Jacobites.

There is an interesting anecdote relating to the Feltrim Fagans and Queen Elizabeth. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, Fitzgerald, Earl of Desmond, was committed to the custody of Christopher Fagan of Feltrim. Fagan generously permitted Fitzgerald to escape.

Returning to the pedigree, Richard (1527-1610) had a son John (1558-1643) of Feltrim who surrendered his estates to King James I and receive a re-grant in 1611. This re-grant was similar to the 1607 re-grant of Conor MacDermotRoe of Camagh/Alderford in Kilronan Parish, County Roscommon.

John's eldest son Richard, (1589-1622), married Elinor the heiress of Thomas Fagan, (1556-1622) of Castle Fagan, Dublin who in turn was the son of Thomas Fagan, born 1494. Richard and Elinor had Richard (1637-1690) of Feltrim who married Elinor Aylmer. No children of theirs are shown on the pedigree.

John's line was continued in the pedigree through his fourth son, also named John (1600-1683) of Feltrim. Son John married Beale, daughter of William Knowles of Waterford City. Her maternal grandfather Thomas Strong was Waterford's mayor. John and Beale's children included a son William who lost a large fortune supporting King James II, a son James who became a Lt. Colonel of Hamel's Regiment and married the heiress of the House of Turges in the province of Lorraine and lived in 1722 at St. Maroin, and a son Christopher (1649-1740) through whom the pedigree continues.

Christopher (1649-1740), also a staunch Jacobite, was a Captain in Browne of Kenmare's Regiment of Infantry in the service of King James II. He was "comprised" in the Capitulation of Limerick in 1691 and retired to

County Kerry - possibly Killarney in that County. He was, thus, the first in the line to move from Feltrim to Kerry.

Richard Fagan of Feltrim and Castle Fagan, a cousin of Christopher's not mentioned in Chevalier Fagan's pedigree, supported James II with a regiment of cavalry at the siege of Derry and the battle of Aughrim. His participation in the siege of Derry was commemorated in a poem quoted by John D'Alton in his *History of the County of Dublin, infra* at page 217, and in, [\*A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland\*](#), Volume 4, by John Burke at page 628:

Bellew left Duleek, and his ancient hall,  
To see his monarch righted;  
Fagan of Feltrim, with Fingal,  
His cavalry united;  
'Twas part of the plan, that Lord Strabane  
Should give his neighbours warning,  
But they packed him off with a shot and a scoff,  
His hollow counsel scorning. *Supra* at 628 (poem's author not named)

Following the victory of William of Orange, Richard forfeited his considerable estate, then valued at upwards of 100,000 pounds.

After 1691, Christopher married Mary daughter of Patrick Nagle of Ballinamona Castle (near Cork City), County Cork who was a De Lacy on her mother's side. Christopher died in Killarney in 1740. He and Mary had 4 sons but all died young except for Patrick (1696-1770) of Killarney through whom the pedigree continued.

Patrick, born 1696, of Killarney married in 1732 Christianna, daughter of Thomas FitzMaurice of Cassfayle, County Kerry. They had an incredible 22 children. The pedigree only shows eleven of them, 8 sons and 3 daughters.

The eldest child of Patrick flourished 1700 and Christianna was the renowned Chevalier Christopher (1733-1816) of Killarney, Paris and London. In 1748, Christopher went to France to school. He entered the French army in 1755. He was badly wounded in 1758 while serving as a captain in Prince Soubise's Dragoons. Christopher was awarded the Cross of the Military Order of St. Louis with pension.

After leaving the army, Chevalier Christopher remained in Paris until the French Revolution sent him into exile. Chevalier Christopher married Marie de Corte daughter of Joseph in France. They had two children Christopher who served as an officer in Dillon's Regiment of the Irish Brigade

and thereafter was an officer in the English Army. *A Fagan Genealogy*, infra, page 7. Presumably, he is the Captain Christopher Fagan who appears with Ensign Patrick MacDermotRoe in Dillon's Regiment UK in 1797. Captain Christopher died unwed in the West Indies, *ibid*.

Chevalier Christopher's other child was Charles Louis Francois, the first Comte de Fagan. Charles married a French noblewoman. The Chevalier had the Fagan pedigree prepared to show Charles' nobility prior to 1399. This was required so that Charles, like his wife, could be permitted into the inner circles of the French court. The family lived in France but the line expired with Charles' son, the second Comte de Fagan.

Patrick Fagan's other children include Stephen who married Catherine Trant of Castle Island, Co. Kerry and moved to Cork. It would appear that Stephen was in the vanguard of a move of Killarney Fagan's to Cork where they became successful. William Fagan was Mayor of Cork in 1844 and was a member of the British Parliament in 1848. Perhaps the Cork Fagans were influenced by Nagle cousins in going to Cork.

Patrick's third son Robert, joined and then left the French Army. He went to the British West Indies and became a ship owner and merchant circa 1775. He transferred his business to Philadelphia. Fourth son Patrick, born about 1736, settled in Ross, Wexford. Fifth son Andrew born, about 1741, was an officer in the army of the East India Company and, also, settled in Ross, Wexford.

Sixth son John, born 1743, resided in Kittallah, Kerry. Seventh son James, born about 1745, became a high ranking officer in the French army but left to join the English army after the French Revolution. He died in a duel in Grenada in 1801 while serving as an assistant quartermaster general. Eighth son William born about 1747 resided in Kittallah, Kerry. He may be the ancestor of William, Mayor of Cork in 1844 and Cork MP since the latter William had ties to Kerry.

Tenth son Nicholas (1760-1810) who appears in *Burke's American Families of British Ancestry*, left Ireland for France in 1774. He served with Dillon's Regiment (France) at Savannah, Georgia during the American Revolution. He left the French army in 1787 and studied architecture. He immigrated to America and settled in Philadelphia where he was commissioned to build St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church, dedicated 1801. In 1797, Nicholas married Mary Seton Walsh. Her father was Captain John Walsh of the Continental Navy, born Dublin and her mother was Catherine de Bruce Seton of Edinburgh.

Nicholas's wife Mary Seton had a pedigree close to the center of Scottish Freemasonry and the Knights Templar. This evidence suggests that the Fagans of Killarney like the MacDermots Roe, may have had a strong connection to freemasonry. Nicholas died on November 1, 1810 as the result of a fall from a horse while hunting. Presumably, Nicholas was fox hunting - a sport pursued by the author, his wife and children for many years.

The Nicholas Fagan branch continued in Philadelphia to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Their home, Feltrim House, in Penn Square, Philadelphia was occupied by 3 generations of the family until 1893. The site is now part of a municipal park north of City Hall.

There were other sons of Patrick Fagan, born 1696 but their names are not known. Nicholas, for example, is not listed on the Christopher Fagan pedigree but his ancestry was discovered independently by his American descendants.

The Cork Fagans kept some ties to Killarney. William Fagan and Mary Donnohue had a children Ellen, Sept 4, 1806, Elizabeth April 17, 1814 and John, May 8, 1817 in the Roman Catholic parish of Killarney. He might be the William who was Mayor of Cork in 1844 or his father. Since there are no Fagans in Killarney in Griffiths, the rest of the family evidently moved from Killarney before Griffiths (1848-1864).

In 21 November 1851, William Fagan of Cork, presumably the 1844 Mayor and MP is shown as a party with respect to an estate with lands in Kerry. The other party in the estate matter is a Daniel James Moynihan of Freemount, Kerry.

With respect to William Fagan, Mayor of Cork, it is interesting to note that in an 1846 list of contributors to a Cork soup kitchen, William is listed as "of Feltrim, Barony of Cork". William Fagan, Cork Mayor 1844, was also a merchant. In a Cork City record of October 5, 1848, William Fagan, MP served as on the Committee of Merchants for the Butter Trade. Butter was an extremely important export from the busy port of Cork.

The Killarney Fagans shown on the two Fagan pedigrees were not the only ones to migrate west after the defeat of the Jacobites. An entry in the Mormon Database "Family Search" shows a Joseph Fagan born 1692, Dublin, died Middleton, Cork 1743. Middleton was about 13 miles east of Cork City. Near the eastern edge of Cork Harbor, Middleton was apparently a shipping destination in the 1700's. A channel, now silted up, ran from the harbor to Middleton.



Significantly, this entry shows that Joseph had a daughter Catherine, born 1713 Midleton, died 11 Nov 1741, married to Charles O'Connor born 1 Jan 1710 in Knockmore, Sligo. This would be Charles O'Connor of Belanagare, the historian and Catholic civil rights leader who was close to the MacDermots Roe. Charles O'Connor's sister Eleanor married Charles MacDermotRoe of Alderford about 1740.

So we can see that the Fagans of Cork, like the MacDermots Roe were connected by marriage to the O'Conors of Belanagare in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. And as we have seen the MacDermots Roe of Emlagh were, also, connected by marriage to the O'Conors of Ballintober. For example, the daughter of Edmond MacDermotRoe of Emlagh daughter married Owen O'Connor of Corrasduna, a descendant of the O'Conors of Ballintober, in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The O'Connor and Fagan connection must go back the early 1700's. In a letter in the O'Connor library at Clonalis, County Roscommon, Ireland, Charles O'Connor says that his father Denis arranged Charles' marriage to Catherine Fagan in 1731. So Denis must have been well acquainted with Joseph Fagan some years prior to that.

The relationship between the O'Connor's of Belanagare and the Fagan's continued for more than a century. There are many letters in the O'Connor library referring to the Fagans. These letters abstracted in *The O'Connor Papers*, Gareth and Janet Dunleavy, eds. 1977, extend from the mid-1700's to the late 1800's. The letters were from Charles, the historian, his son Denis and his grandson, Rev. Charles O'Connor and suggest that the Fagans, like the MacDermots Roe, lent money to the O'Conors.

The O'Connor library contains a handwritten 9 page poem addressed to Mr. Fagan of Arran Quay. The Arran Quay address suggests that Joseph Fagan's family may have returned, like other Fagans, to Dublin in the late 1700's as business improved. Dublin was the center of growth, not Cork, which did not boom until the early 1800's. In the late 1700's, a branch of the MacDermots Roe known as the Dermotts of Ushers Quay, were prominent Dublin merchants.

Richard Fagan, father of Thomas of Troy, appears to have been working with Patrick MacDermotRoe out of Dublin in 1816. That's the origin port of the *Erin*, the ship on which they arrived, probably on shipping business, that year. So it is possible that Richard Fagan and even Patrick MacDermotRoe worked in shipping and related activities for the Joseph Fagan branch at Arran Quay. There was still a George Fagan, glass manufacturer, at Arran Quay in the 1850 Dublin Directory.

Other letters relate to pedigrees and other family matters. A 1771 letter from Charles the historian to Dr. John Curry of the Catholic Association mentions the Fagan's – perhaps as prominent Catholics supporting the civil rights movement. These letters collectively would suggest a continuing close relationship between the O'Connor's and Fagan's.

It is interesting to note that the O'Connor papers also include a few documents mentioning the Irwin's in connection with financial matters. One dated 1789-1790 refers to a bond from Denis O'Connor and Charles O'Connor of Mt. Allen made to Irwin, *viz.*, Irwin loaned them money. Another dated Feb 24, 1786 from Denis O'Connor to Wm. Irwin refers to setting an appointment to hear the report on the outcome of Mr. Cocking's Declaration of Trust. This would suggest that the Irwins were some kind of financial advisor or representative for the O'Conors.

It is, also, interesting to note that a small branch of the Fagans was established in Boyle by the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Like the Killarney Fagan's, they may have moved from Dublin in the aftermath of the Williamite Wars where they were on the losing Jacobite side. The fairly unusual given names of Andrew and Stephen appear in the Boyle branch suggesting some tie to Patrick, born 1696 of Killarney. The Boyle Fagans had a lime kiln business near Boyle at place they called Feltrim which is not on modern maps. They apparently named their Boyle area headquarters after the Fagan seat near Dublin.

It seems likely that the Boyle Fagan's would have been acquainted with the MacDermots Roe as they were probably the most prominent family in the Boyle area at the time. Charles Fagan of Boyle married Brigid Taafe and had an Edward, christened Boyle Roman Catholic Parish 1817. There was a Taafe in Dillon's Regiment along with Christopher Fagan and Patrick MacDermotRoe. Also, Clement MacDermotRoe of Louth and Roscommon had a daughter who married a Taaffe. See Chapter 7, *infra*.

So what can we say about the Fagan ancestry of Richard, father of Thomas Fagan of Troy, New York who married Catherine MacDermotRoe daughter of Patrick and Dorothy Irving?

It seems likely that Richard Fagan descended from the French origin Fagans who were established in Dublin by 1200 and established a seat at Feltrim, north of the city. However, when Richard's family came to Cork is not at all clear.

Perhaps Richard's family descended from John, the survivor of the Perkin Warbeck rebellion who went to Cork in 1514. On the other hand he may descend from Fagans who went to Cork about 1700 following the defeat of King James II. Since there are many lines in the Fagans of Feltrim pedigree with the names Richard and Thomas that are not documented from the 1500's forward, there are many possibilities. The fact that Richard was operating out of Dublin in 1816 suggests that his family's ties to that city were strong.

And then there is the oral history mentioning Killarney, as well as Cork, in connection with Richard. Could Richard descend from one of the 22 children of Patrick, born 1696 of Killarney whose father Christopher of the Feltrim Fagans retired to County Kerry after the defeat of the Jacobites under King James II?

Regardless, in the distinguished career of Richard's son, Thomas Fagan of Troy, New York, we see all the qualities characteristic of the Fagans of Feltrim: 1. the aptitude for business shown in the success of his teamster operations, 2. the commitment to public service demonstrated by his key volunteer position as rounder in Troy's night watch, 3. the family's military tradition shown in his service as an officer in the Troy militia before and during the American Civil War, and 4. his willingness to take risks to do the right thing as when he and his wife Catherine defied authority to shelter a learning disabled young man sought by the draft during the American Civil War.

## *Appendix D*

### *Spousal Family Histories*

The following is genealogical information regarding:

William ("Billy") Theodore Thomas (born Oct 27, 1915, Jamestown, New York, died September 5, 1994, Jamesburg, New Jersey), the husband of Henriette Elizabeth Meaney (born, February 28, 1916, Schenectady, New York), a MacDermot Roe descendant and mother of the author,

Bonnie Jean Marchand (born September 23, 1951, Greenwich, Connecticut), the wife of the author who was the son of Henriette and Billy.

Abeer Salam Al-Ghawi, (born September 1, 1986, El Paso, Texas), the wife of Marchand Thomas MacDermotRoe (born February 8, 1988, New York, New York), the author's older son.

#### ***Billy's family history***

Billy descends from a tiny ethnic group known as the Aromanians, descendants of Roman soldiers who protected and later settled along the Via Ignatia, the road from Constantinople, the Eastern capitol of the Roman Empire, west to Durres on the Adriatic where travelers would sail to Brindisi, Italy and take the Appian Way to Rome. While these Roman soldiers eventually intermarried with the local population, they preserved their distinct Roman culture. This culture included a Latin based language, Aromanian, which is similar to modern Romanian.

The strength of the Aromanian culture is evident from the fact that it continues to be spoken into modern times despite that fact that the region was culturally dominated by Greece for centuries. Indeed, Billy's mother was fluent in Aromanian and continued to speak the language after immigration as there was small Aromanian community in Jamestown where she settled. She, also, spoke Albanian and Greek, the languages of the nations in which she grew up and lived.

Billy's maternal great-grandfather Athenasias Toklas (born circa 1825) lived in Voskopoje, known as Moscopole in Greek, a cultural center in 18<sup>th</sup> century Balkans, located in modern Albania. The town had the only printing press in the Balkans in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and still is known for its architecture. According to oral family history, the Toklas family residence was renowned for its beauty. It would appear that the Toklas family was engaged in the flour mill business.

Toklas' daughter Vasilika (born March 19, 1862, Voskopoje/Moscopole, modern Albania, died March 11, 1949, Jamestown, New York) married Arthur Fonda (also spelled Foundo) who owned a flour mill and lived in [Korce](#) in present day Albania. Many Aromanians of [Voskopoje/Moscopole](#) moved to the nearby town of Korce after Voskopoje was largely destroyed by Ali Pasha in 1788. In the 1970's, an elderly cousin told the author that Arthur Fonda traveled regularly to Alexandria, Egypt to buy wheat for his mill.

Arthur and Vasilika had a several daughters including Billy's mother Cresave (born January 1, 1885, probably, Korce, died February 6, 1950, Jamestown, New York,). Cresave married Theodore Naum Thomas (born February 22, 1879, Korce, died October 19, 1951, Jamestown, New York), son of Naum Thomas. Naum is the name of a biblical prophet who prophesized the fall of Nineveh.

In Europe, the family surname was rendered in the Greek alphabet. Thomas is the Roman alphabet rendering of the name with theta replaced by Th and the Greek letter c replaced by the s, the English pronunciation equivalents.

The Toklases, Fondas and Thomases of Voskopoje and Korce were typical of the Aromanian community - Christian, Hellenized, urban, engaged in commerce/international trade and generally much more affluent than the agrarian Muslim Albanian community. Indeed, the Aromanian community there became one of the wealthiest communities in Epirus and Macedonia. Much of the notable architecture of these two towns, particularly the Orthodox churches, has survived.

In 1912, Vasilika, then widowed, sold the family's mill and used the money to finance the family's emigration to the United States. All the daughters came to the U.S. and settled in Jamestown, New York except for Margot who remained behind. At the time of the emigration, the family was living in Xanthi, Greece where Theodore had a job. Margot stayed there and married a Samos. Efforts to trace her family have not been successful.

The timing of the emigration may have been related to the outbreak of the First Balkan War (1912-1913). In the conflict, the Balkan League (Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro) defeated the Ottoman Empire and liberated the remaining parts of Europe still under Ottoman rule.

Among the children of Theodore and Cresave was Billy's younger brother Arthur, born October 21, 1923, Jamestown, New York. Art became an electrical engineer like his brother, lived in Fairfield, Connecticut and retired from Colt Industries. He and his wife Jill had two daughters Cindy and Sue.

Art was an infantryman with the U.S. Army's 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and participated in the first wave of the amphibious landings at Leyte, Philippines (1944) and Okinawa Japan (1945) during World War II. In addition to his personal awards and medals, Art's unit, the 96<sup>th</sup> Division, received a Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism and gallantry in action in Okinawa. He recounted his World War II war experiences in a nationally broadcast episode of the author's radio series *History Counts* on the Pacifica network entitled "War in the First Person".

### ***Bonnie's family history***

Bonnie's father Nathan Marchand, an electrical engineer specializing in avionics, was born in Shawinigan Falls, Quebec, Canada and his family later moved to New York City. Nathan's parents came from Romania. His paternal grandfather's brother was a Roman Catholic bishop in Romania. The author's efforts to find further information in this regard were unsuccessful.

Bonnie's mother, Ernesta Jaros, was a skilled amateur painter. She earned a Master's degree in Fine Arts from New York University. Her specialization was Buddhist cave paintings on the Silk Road.

Ernesta's German Jewish background is particularly interesting. Her mother Zillah Heidenheim's ancestors included the Ottenbergs who were prominent in the U.S. tobacco industry and the Heidenheims, kohanim originating in the important Jewish community in Schnaittach, Bavaria. Her father Ernest Jaros' family was from the Germanized Polish city of Posnan. Here are the details:

#### ***Ottenberg***

Herz Ottenberg (born 1769), Bensheim, Germany had Isaac Ottenberg, born in Germany, who married Babette Heil, who had Caroline

Ottenberg (born 1856), Albany, NY who married Jacob Heidenheim, died 1918 in New York City. They had Zillah Heidenheim who married Ernest Jaros.

Isaac, a tobacconist, immigrated to the U.S., probably in the 1830's. He set up a very successful cigar business, Ottenberg and Sons, in New York City with sons William, Simon, Henry and Herman. The firm's history is discussed in a long article in the November 18, 1896 issue of the trade paper *The Tobacco Leaf*. Ernest knew Uncle Herman as he lived with her grandmother Caroline's family.

Ernesta's cousin, Simon Ottenberg, is a distinguished anthropologist who specialized in West Africa. A professor emeritus of the University of Washington, he has authored many books on African culture and art. His father, Reuben Ottenberg (1882-1959), a Columbia Physicians and Surgeon graduate, was a renowned New York City physician noted for his work in hematology.

### *Heidenheim*

Zillah Heidenheim's ancestry is as follows:

Laemmlein Baer Marx Heidenheimer (born 1745, Schnaittach, Bavaria, Germany), in the business of dress material, was the father of Isaac Laemmlein Marx Heidenheimer (born 1773, Schnaittach), who was the father of Abraham Heidenheim, (born 1811/1812, Schnaittach, died, 14 Nov 1881, New York City), a dry goods merchant and an officer in the New York State Militia, who married Hannah Mingesheimer (born 1814 Stabbach-Baaden, Bavaria, died 23 May 1881, New York City) whose children included Jacob (born 20 Aug 1846, died 29 May 1919, Brooklyn, New York), also a dry goods merchant, who married Caroline Ottenberg, daughter of Isaac Ottenberg, above, and they had Zillah Heidenheim, died 19 Sept 1936.

Abraham Heidenheim immigrated to the U.S. about 1833. His dry goods store was at 43 Columbia Street, Manhattan and he owned a house at 29 Columbia Street. His tombstone at Salem Field Cemetery states in Hebrew that he was from Schnaittach, Germany and that he was a kohanim, a descendant of Moses' brother Aaron.

Schnaittach had a small but important Jewish community which is believed to date back long before 1498 when a Jew is mentioned at a trial. Documents show that an organized community was in existence by 1505 which by 1529 maintained a rabbi, synagogue and cemetery. The oldest

tombstone is from 1423. In 1747, there were 49 tax paying Jewish families in the village.

Jewish families with ties to the Bavarian government as financiers and officials settled in Schnaittach including the family of Lowe Seligmann. Bavarian Court Jews are discussed and Schnaittach is mentioned in [Max Lilienthal: The Making of the American Rabbinate](#) by Bruce L. Ruben, Wayne State University, 2011, at pages 1,2, online edition accessed on August 21, 2018. .

### *Jaros*

While the Jaroses (originally Jaroslowski) were from Poznan in modern day Poland, this area was within Germany in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the Jaroses were culturally German.

Salomon Jaroslowski (born 12 Jan 1796, Poznan, Poland, died 12 Sept 1866, New York City, buried Machpelak Cemetery, Queens, New York). He married Sara Bela who died before Salomon emigrated and is buried at Frankfurt on the Oder, Prussia. Their children included Jacob, (died 25 July 1887, New York, buried Bethel Cemetery, Queens, New York) who married Henriette Cohen (died 19 Feb 1905, buried Bethel Cemetery) and they had Isidore (born 14 Feb 1884, died 2 May 1918), a concert violinist who changed the surname to Jaros and who married Estelle Bier and had Ernest (born 7 May 1882 in Europe while his father was on tour, died 25 Oct 1968, New York, New York) who married Zillah Heidenheim and were the parents of Ernesta Jaros Marchand.

### ***Abeer's family history***

Abeer's parents: Mother: Sandra Olivia Lara Miranda (born April 15, 1966, Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico). Father: Jassim (sometimes spelt Gasem) Ahmed Al-Basha (born March 28, 1957, Sehat, Eastern Province Saudi Arabia).

Abeer's maternal grandparents: Grandfather: Angel Alonso Lara Peru (born August 3, 1938, Buena Fe, Chihuahua, Mexico, died July 10, 2004). Grandmother: Manuela Estela Miranda Martinez (born April 28, 1942, Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico).

Abeer's paternal grandparents: Grandfather: Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Basha (died November 2011). Grandmother: Hessa Al-Basha, (died 1988).



Angel Lara Peru, Abeer's maternal grandfather, was a civil servant in the town of Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chihuahua. He started as a mail clerk, and then proceeded to delivery driver and rose through the ranks to Post Master for the town. He retired after more than thirty years in the Postal Service.

Through her grandfather Angel Lara Peru and her mother, Sandra Lara Miranda, Abeer descends from [Francisco Velasquez de Lara](#), a soldier under the Spanish conquistador, Hernan Cortes 1485-1547. Cortes, a Spanish conquistador led an expedition that caused the fall of the Aztec Empire and brought large portions of what is now Mexico under Spanish rule.

Francisco may have been a member of Cortes' first expedition to Mexico in 1519. The expedition was originally authorized by [Diego Velázquez de Cuéllar](#), a conquistador who conquered Cuba and who was in 1519 Governor of New Spain. It is not known if Diego's family, from Segovia, was related to that of Francisco.

Francisco's parents were Gonzalo Velasquez de Lara and Dona Teresa de Ayamonte. He settled in Mexico City, married and had two children including a son Gonzalo Velasquez de Lara who had a son, also, named Gonzalo Velasquez de Lara.

The Laras, an important family of medieval Spain, are the subject of [The Lara Family: Crown and Nobility in Medieval Spain](#) by Simon R. Doubleday, 2001. The House of Lara traces its origins to 11th century Castile through the marriage of Gonzalo Nunez (or Munoz) who had lands around Lara de los Infantes (meaning "Lara of the Princes"), Burgos, Castile y Leon, to Goto Nunez who was heir to lands of the noble Alvarez and Alfonso families.

The Laras successfully played a pivotal role in wars between rival royal families in the ensuing centuries. In 1520, [Emperor Charles V](#) raised the House of Lara to the position of [grandee](#), as dukes of Nájera and marquesses of Aguilar de Campoo. Members of the family were to serve the crown as viceroys, captain generals, ambassadors and cardinals.

Although Abeer's Mexican ancestors were Catholics, the surname [Lara has been identified by the Holy Office of the Catholic Church of Spain as a Sephardic Jewish surname](#) per [Harry Stein](#), an authority on the origin of Sephardic names. In a 1560 treatise entitled *Tizon de la Nobleza de Espana*, Spanish Cardinal Francisco Mendoza y Bobadilla contended that the entire Spanish nobility were conversos, i.e. of Jewish origin. See Henry Kamen,

*The Spanish Inquisition: A Historical Revision* (1997) at page 32. It is said that the Cardinal's family, the Mendozas, certainly had Jewish ancestry.

The Sephardic connection was particularly relevant to the Cortes expedition. It was partly funded by [Pedro de Maluenda](#), a converso from a prominent family of merchants and court money lenders, who, also, served as commissary on Cortes' expedition. His great grandson, Juan de Onate, was the founder of New Mexico and married Cortes' granddaughter, Isabel de Tolosa Cortes Moctezuma. See *Conquest: Cortes, Montezuma and the Fall of Old Mexico* by Hugh Thomas and an article on the Jewish ancestry of Juan de Onate by New Mexico genealogist Jose Antonio Esquibel published in the *Colonial Latin American Historical Review*, Spring 1998 cited in an online discussion of the Jewish origins of Spanish nobility.

## Footnotes

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<sup>i</sup> Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland, The Four Masters, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, De Barca Rare Books, Dublin (1990), Volume III, page 401.

<sup>ii</sup> North Roscommon - Its People and Past, Cyril Mattimoe, Roscommon Herald, Boyle, Ireland, 1992, ISBN 0951978209.

<sup>iii</sup> MacDermot of Moylurg, Sir Dermot MacDermot, Drumlin Publications, Ireland (1996), page 295.

<sup>iv</sup> Medieval Religious Houses, Ireland, Aubrey Gwynn and R. Neville Hadcock, London, 1970, SBN 58211229x, page 223.

<sup>v</sup> Quoted in MacDermot of Moylurg at page 172.

<sup>vi</sup> A copy of the grant is included in one of the two registered MacDermot Roe pedigrees. See Genealogical Office Manuscript 169, pages 393-404, at page 404 (956 A.D. - 1865), National Library of Ireland, Dublin. Summaries of the grant were, also, published in Great Britain, Calendar of State Papers, Ireland, Volume I, (1605-1606), edited by C.W. Russell and John P. Prendergast, Longman & Co. Publishers, London (1872) as calendar numbers 541 and 547. The other MacDermot Roe pedigree is GOMs 179, pages 329-333 (1744-1865).

<sup>vii</sup> As part of the terms of submission in 1603, Hugh O'Neill was required to renounce the title of "The O'Neill" which in its incarnation under Gaelic law was understood to be the real source of his power. A History of Ireland, Edmund Curtis, Methuen & Co. (1936), republished (1961) at page 219.

<sup>viii</sup> MacDermot of Moylurg, pages 460-463.

<sup>ix</sup> MacDermots Roe of Ballinahow, unregistered pedigree, National Library of Ireland, Genealogical Office Manuscript Room, GO 220, page 385 listed in the Index of Unregistered Pedigrees, Ms 470 as McDermot of County Roscommon and contained in a manuscript volume Milesian, Vol. I, A.D., Index 461, "220".

<sup>x</sup> Life of O'Carolan, Munday-O'Reilly Manuscript, National Library of Ireland, Dublin, Microfilm Positive #4132.

<sup>xi</sup> Carolan, The Life, Times and Music of an Irish Harper, Donal O'Sullivan, originally published by Routledge & Keegan, London (1958), republished by Celtic Music, Louth, England (1983, 1991).

<sup>xii</sup> O'Sullivan, pages 101-102.

<sup>xiii</sup> Index to Diocesan Wills, Ardagh, 1695-1858, National Library of Ireland, Dublin, Microfilm Positive #1722.

<sup>xiv</sup> O'Sullivan, pages 52-53. An account of John's resistance to Knox and Kingston is, also, set forth in the appendix to the Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland, Volume VI, page 2399.

<sup>xv</sup> Who Was Who, 1916-1928, A&C Black, London, page 663, republished 1967 as Volume II of a series 1897-1960.

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<sup>xvi</sup> MacDermot Roe Pedigree. National Library of Ireland. GOMs 169, pages 393-404. Denis, the youngest son of Charles MacDermot Roe and Eleanor O'Connor, does not appear on the pedigree.

<sup>xvii</sup> Mundy-O'Reilly Manuscript on the Life of O'Carolan. National Library of Ireland. Microfilm Positive 4132.

<sup>xviii</sup> Letter #313 dated February 6, 1779, Letters of Charles O'Connor ed. by Robert E. Ward and John F. Wynne, S.J., Catholic University Press, Washington, D.C., 1988, original at Clonalis Library #8.4 SE 148.

<sup>xix</sup> Paris in the Terror, June 1793-July 1794, Loomis, Stanley, Dorset House Publishing, 1990, at pages 329-330.

<sup>xx</sup> An important source for the life in Paris during the Revolution is Helen Maria Williams (1761?-1827), English poet and novelist who wrote an eye-witness account of the French Revolution. An English liberal and religious dissenter sympathetic to the Revolution, Helen moved to Paris in 1790 to observe it close-up. Like the Taylors, Helen was imprisoned during the Terror and later released. See "An Eye-Witness Account of the French Revolution" published in Volume 19 of the Age of Romanticism, Jack Fructman, Jr, editor, Peter Lang Publisher 1997, ISBN 0820431206 and Helen Williams and the French Revolution, Jane Shuter, Editor, 1996, ISBN 0811482871.

<sup>xxi</sup> Daily Life in the French Revolution, Jean Robiquet, MacMillan Co., NY, 1965, translated by James Kirup at page 148-151.

<sup>xxii</sup> Ibid, citing Almanachs des Prisons, Memoires sur les Prisons and the Memoires d'un Detenu by Riouffe

<sup>xxiii</sup> House of Lords. Roscommon Peerage Case. Peerage Claims, Volume II. British House of Lords Records Office., see testimony of William Coultard dated February 15, 1798 at page 21, ordered to be printed July 17, 1823.

<sup>xxiv</sup> I consistently use the appellation Roe in referring to MacDermot Roe descendants in this article. However, records are extremely inconsistent in including the Roe especially for descendants living outside northern Roscommon. For example, Thomas MacDermot Roe of Castlemehen, discussed infra, is referred to with the Roe in many leases but the Roe is omitted from his listing in the Elphin Census of 1749. All available records of his grandson, Colonel Thomas, omit the Roe.

<sup>xxv</sup> An entry in Walker's Hibernian Magazine, 1771-1812 shows that he was "of Emla" in January, 1786 when his sister married Sterling St. Clair of Finglas, County Dublin.

<sup>xxvi</sup> We are fortunate that many of the details of Colonel Thomas MacDermot Roe's career are set forth in an article in the Irish Sword, Vol. XII, No. 46. They are summarized by Dermot MacDermot in MacDermot of Moylurg at page 328-340.

<sup>xxvii</sup> Thomas' brother Owen, a lawyer at 26 Queen Street, Dublin, was secretary of the Dublin Society of United Irishmen in 1793. MacDermot of Moylurg, supra at page 328

<sup>xxviii</sup> "Poets and Poetry of Kilkenny", Father Larry Murray, Louth Archaeological Society's Journal, Vol IV, No. 1, 1916, page 49, quoted in MacDermot of Moylurg, page 324. Father Murray says that the harper was Turlough O'Carolan.

<sup>xxix</sup> Walsh, Thomas *History of the Irish Hierarchy*, 1854, p. 625

<sup>xxx</sup> MacDermot, Dermot, *MacDermot of Moylurg, The Story of a Connacht Family*, Drumlin Publications, 1994 at pp. 203

<sup>xxxi</sup> MacDermot, Dermot, *MacDermot of Moylurg*, supra, p. 58

<sup>xxxii</sup> *History of the Irish Hierarchy*, supra, p. 632

<sup>xxxiii</sup> Gwynn, Aubrey and Hadcock, R. Neville, *Medieval Religious Houses, Ireland*, London, 1970, p. 223.

<sup>xxxiv</sup> Mattimoe, Cyril, *North Roscommon, its people and past*, ISBN 0951978209, 1992, p. 74

<sup>xxxv</sup> Cloonshanville Priory, French Family Association,

<http://www.frenchfamilyassoc.com/FFA/CHARTSWEB/IREF.htm>, accessed January 27, 2012; See, also,

- Sweetman, David, An Archaeological Excavation at the Cross of Cloonshanville, Co. Roscommon, *Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society*, Vol. 38 (1981/1982), pp. 83-87
- xxxvi *Ibid.*
- xxxvii Legg, Marie Louise, ed., *Elphin Census of 1749*, ISBN 1874280738, 2004
- xxxviii Walsh, Thomas *History of the Irish Hierarchy*, 1854, p. 622
- xxxix GCatholic website, <http://www.gcatholic.com/dioceses/diocese/elph0.htm> accessed February 18, 2012
- xl *MacDermot of Moylurg*, pp. 297-298
- xli *Calendar of Stuart Papers*, Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, Volume 1, p. 213, [http://books.google.com/books?id=5sYKAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Calendar+of+Stuart+Papers,+Royal+Commission+on+Historical+Manuscripts,+Francis+Daniel&source=bl&ots=VRQO22Zhr\\_&sig=TZKIWTogDOBi3h9etPkwG\\_W1yo8&hl=en&ei=mHnHS-DZKcT7lweVrszEAQ&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=8&ved=0CBsQ6AEwBw#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=5sYKAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Calendar+of+Stuart+Papers,+Royal+Commission+on+Historical+Manuscripts,+Francis+Daniel&source=bl&ots=VRQO22Zhr_&sig=TZKIWTogDOBi3h9etPkwG_W1yo8&hl=en&ei=mHnHS-DZKcT7lweVrszEAQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=8&ved=0CBsQ6AEwBw#v=onepage&q&f=false), accessed April 15, 2010
- xlii Foster, R.F., *Modern Ireland*, Viking, 1988, pp. 154, 205-207, 211
- xliii *MacDermot of Moylurg*, p. 298
- xliv *Ibid.*, p. 312
- xlv *Calendar of Stuart Papers*, p. 213
- xlvi MacDermot Roe pedigree, GOMs 179
- xlvi Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois website, <http://www.ardaghdiocese.org/page2.html>, accessed April 15, 2010
- xlvi MacNamee, Bishop James J., *History of the Diocese of Ardagh*, pp. 393-395
- xlvi *MacDermot of Moylurg*, Sir Dermot MacDermot, Drumlin Publications, 1996, pedigree on p. 315
- <sup>1</sup> *History of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland*, John Heron Lepper and Philip Crossle, Dublin, 1925, p. 238
- li *History of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland*, pp. 236-238.
- lii *History of Freemasonry*, H.L. Haywood, Chapter XIV, The Great Division,
- liii "Laurence Dermott 1720-1791", Bro. T. Eric Henry P.M. (I.C.) published on the internet at <http://www.lodgehope337.org.uk/lectures/henry%20L1.PDF> and accessed December 19, 2009 at p. 3.
- liv Bro. T. Eric Henry, *supra.*, p. 9
- lv *Ibid.*, p. 236.
- lvi *Freemasonry of Boyle*, F.E. Clark, pp.10,27
- lvii *Minutes of the Grand Lodge of Ireland 1780-1803*, compiled by Brother Keith Cochrane, published by Irish Masonic Records, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (CD), 2009
- lviii *History of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland*, p. 162. For a history of the Early Grand Encampments, see *The Early Grand Encampments of Ireland and Scotland and in England* by R.W. Bro. S Forster, Reprint from Lodge of Research No. C.C. Ireland, Transactions 1982-84, Vol. XVIII, edited by Rt. Wor. Bro. George Power, M.A.
- lix *Carolan, The Life, Times and Music of an Irish Harper*, Donal O'Sullivan, Vol. 1, p. 53, Celtic Music edition, 1991.
- lx *Medieval Religious Houses, Ireland*, Aubrey Gwynn and R. Neville Hadcock, published by Longman 1970, pp. 327-331.
- lxi *History of the Irish Hierarchy*, p. 627
- lxii See *The Temple and the Lodge*, Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh, 1989 and "The Templars in Ireland", by H. Wood, Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, Section C, Archaeology, etc, Volume 26, 1906-7, pp. 327 f., Dublin, Hodges & Figgis.
- lxiii Notes, John McDermott, *supra.*, page 18.
- lxiv *MacDermot of Moylurg*, *supra.*, pages 344-345.
- lxv Virginia Patent Book 24, page 164.
- lxvi Amelia County Will Book 2, pages 38a-38c.
- lxvii Amelia County Deed Book 2, pages 395, 521.
- lxviii Virginia Patent Book 27, page 225
- lxix Notes, John McDermott, *supra.*, pages 18-19.
- lxx The MacDermot Roe pedigrees at the National Library of Ireland are Genealogical Office Manuscript (GOMs) 169, pages 393-404 (956 AD-1865) and GOMs 179, pages 329-333, (1744-1865).

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<sup>lxxi</sup> MacDermot of Moylurg, supra, page 233. According to Cyril Mattimoe, there were two Bryans among the Boyle leaders. One was Bryan MacDermot, the Burgomaster. The other was Bryan MacDermot Roe, one of the 19 burgesses. North Roscommon, Its People and Past, supra, page 132.

<sup>lxxii</sup> MacDermot of Moylurg, supra, pages 468-469.

<sup>lxxiii</sup> Ibid, page 237.

<sup>lxxiv</sup> Notes of John McDermott, supra, page 18

<sup>lxxv</sup> Tithe Applotment Book, County Roscommon, Kilronan Civil Parish, New York Public Library, Microfilm Index #ZI-592, film 87.

<sup>lxxvi</sup> MacDermot of Moylurg, supra, page 463.

<sup>lxxvii</sup> O'Murphy is, also, spelled O'Morphy.